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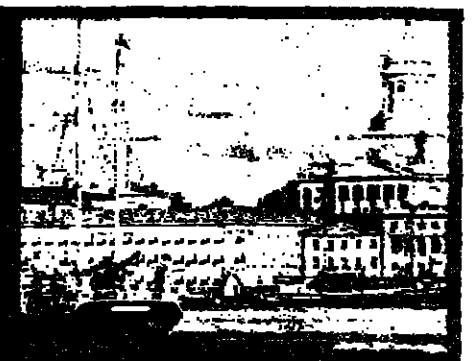
Deborah Harry
the mother of
all comebacks

TUESDAY REVIEW

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Princes and presidents bury a king as his people grieve

BY ROBERT FISK
in Amman

TWO JORDANS buried their king yesterday. There was the formal, Westernised nation with its Scottish-style bagpipers and new, English-accented monarch who invited the world's statesmen to bury the "fallen warrior" on his polished gun carriage. Hussein's Arab steed - empty boots reversed in the stirrups - clapping obediently behind the coffin. And what the world saw - indeed, what the world was supposed to see - was the adoration of kings, presidents, prime ministers and princes: Clinton, Bush, Blair, Assad, Yeltsin, Chirac, Shamir, Netanyahu, Mubarak, Weizman, Arafat, Sharon, Carter, Ford, the Prince of Wales... After all, had not the American president already consigned this man to paradise?

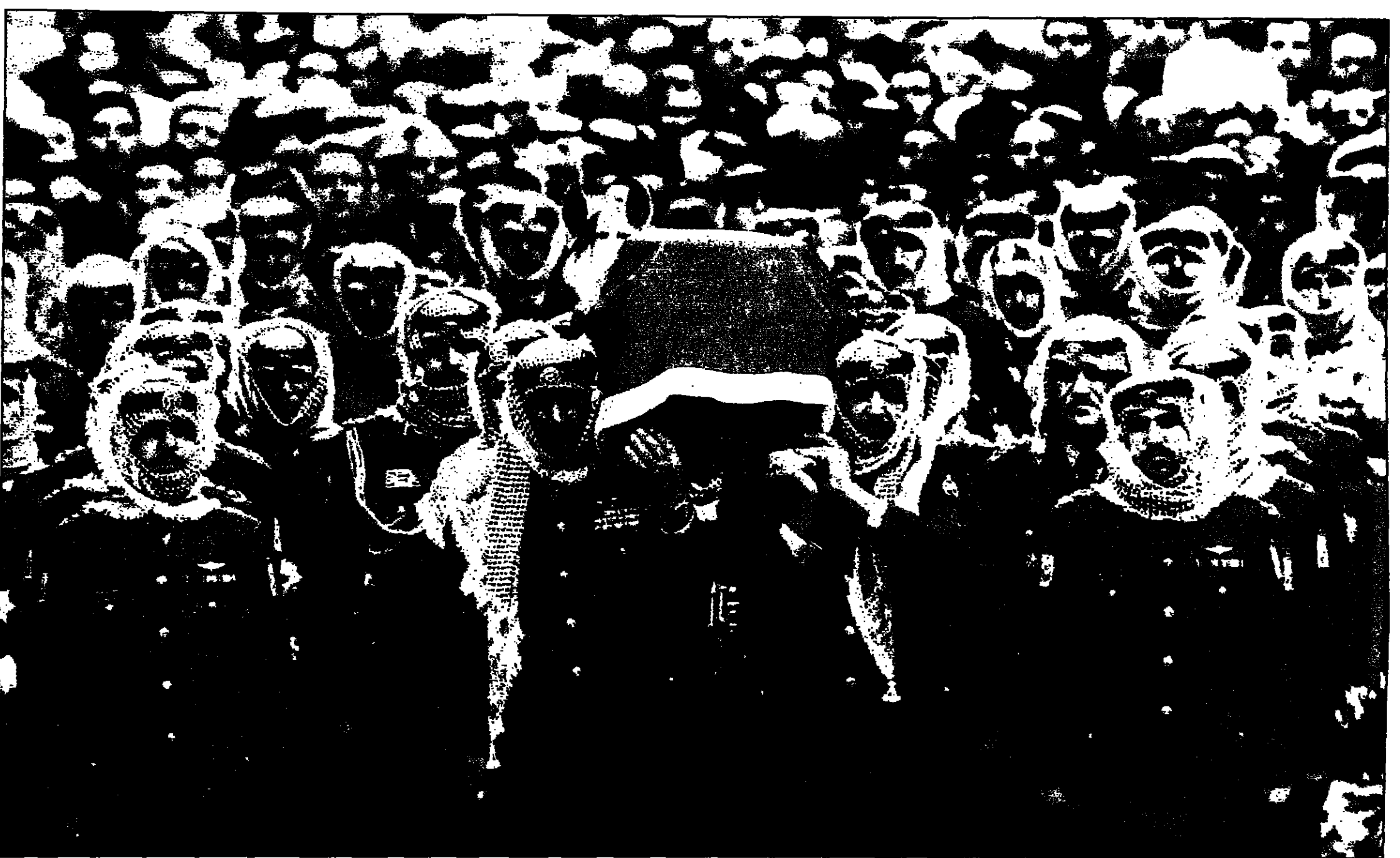
Then there was the other Jordan. Outside the gate, sweating and shrieking to God, smashed back by gun butts, sworn at by the descendants of Ghubb Pasha's Arab Legion as they clawed their way towards King Hussein's coffin, the other Jordan didn't quite fit in with the pageantry on the other side of the palace wall. When the Jordanians broke through the troops and charged in their thousands towards the gates, they were confronted by hundreds more armed soldiers. "In the name of God, help me," an old woman moaned as the crowd stamped her into the mud.

So which was the real Jordan? Was it the nation enshrined just above the marble floor of the Raghada Palace, where the coffin of the "little king" was honoured, prayed to, watched and nodded at by all the dangerous, untrustworthy allies who had variously loved, hated or plotted against him?

Such sincerity, such affection, they all showed yesterday. There was Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who sent his killer squad into Jordan only a few months ago to assassinate a Hamas official, bowing stiffly before the coffin. There was ex-president Bush who just eight years ago regarded Hussein as little more than an enemy agent. Yasser Arafat, whose gunmen once sought to destroy Hussein's kingdom, snapped to attention in his olive fatigues and keffiyeh scarf, twice saluting the flag-draped wooden box in front of him.

And behind the coffin, scarcely moving, was the studied, often frowning face of King Abdullah the Second and his two half-brothers, Crown Prince Hamzah and Prince Hashem. They stood there, hands out in prayer from time to time, all dressed in immaculate suits and ties and all wearing the same kind of chequered red-and-white keffiyeh as Mr Arafat.

Vulnerable was the word that came to mind. The princes didn't look old enough, or hard enough, or cynical enough, to handle the sleek men who passed before them to honour their father, some of them gentlemen, others venal dictators, quite a few with an awful lot of blood on their hands, the harmless and the harmful, one after the other,



Thousands of Jordanians follow their king for the last time, as pall-bearers carry his body to the Royal Guards Mosque for prayers and the burial

Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

parading before the coffin as if waiting for group passport pictures. Clinton and Carter and Ford and Bush. Snap. Prince Charles and Blair and Ashdown and Hague. Snap. Netanyahu and Sharon and Barak. Snap.

I suppose it wasn't surprising that history was being rewritten for the watching world. On the satellite television channels, the cancer-dead king was being eulogised as the man who freely made peace with Israel, whose country was praised - this from CNN - because it was now closer to Israel than to many Arab states.

So forget what the king once privately called the "manacles" of the Oslo agreement, which forced Jordan into an unpopular peace treaty with Israel, and remember what President Clinton told us on Sunday: King Hussein is now in paradise. Which is where we were told the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had gone after his death - that being the destiny, it seems, of all Arab leaders who make peace with Israel at our behest.

As for the crowds, whose voices could be heard baying beyond the palace gates by the beautifully groomed kings and presidents inside, they had somewhat different ideas. Yes, they loved the king, some of them. But there was less enthusiasm for the new King and much less for Prince Hamzah, Hussein's son by his

last wife, the half-American Queen Noor. "Hamzah was chosen as new crown prince by the United States," a girl insisted. She was a Palestinian Jordanian.

"Rubbish," I snorted. "You shouldn't believe in the 'moammarer', the plot," I told her. But then, an hour later, I saw the full list of dignitaries at the palace and was struck by the list of State Department men, the boys from the Washington peacemaking depart-

ment led by Martin Indyk, former head of the largest Israeli lobby group and the man who couldn't manage to persuade Mr Netanyahu to stop building Jewish settlements on Arab land but who insists Mr Arafat must "crack down on terrorism".

So was the real Jordan, then, among the swaying mass of shabbily dressed, shouting youths on the highway to the royal palace, many of them poorly educated, some pathetically adorned with crinkled pictures of the dead king glued to their shirts and scarves? If Jordan has a 90 per cent literacy rate - thanks, of course, to the late king - then I had come across

an oddly unrepresentative sample. But when the coffin approached, a kind of ripple, half sound and half movement, spread through the lines of tired, somehow broken faces, as if a stone had been thrown into a human pond. There was no signal from them in advance, no instruction or indication save perhaps for a line of children who suddenly moved from the trees into the road. Then en masse the people swarmed

towards the coffin and its jeep-loads of head-scarved Jordanian troops, tears streaming down their faces, hands outstretched to touch, even to seize, the flag or perhaps the coffin itself.

I remember thinking, before a panicking soldier struck two men with his rifle and punched me in the chest as the crowd fell on us, that it was like throwing petrol on to a kitchen stove. It was a strange, frightening kind of hysteria because it combined both love and fury in almost exactly equal measure, intense loyalty married to absolute rage. When I rolled over, I found the soldier lying beside me and helped him to his feet. He shrugged as the

crowd surged past him, shouldered his rifle and walked after them in resignation.

At the funeral of Ayatollah Khomeini, almost 10 years ago, the crowds tore at his shroud. And if the Arab Legion's descendants had not shouted in the name of their dead king and if the other soldiers had not laid into the first of the young Jordanians who tried to clamber on to the carriage, it might have happened here yesterday.

Violence is portrayed so differently when its progenitors are behind palace walls. How, one wondered, did the mass outside feel about the large presence of the Israeli foreign minister Ariel Sharon in front of their king's coffin, the very man who sent Israel's Lebanese Phalangist allies into the Sabra and Chatila Palestinian refugee camps in 1982 to "hunt down terrorists", militiamen who then proceeded to murder hundreds of Palestinian civilians. What did they make of the arrival of President Assad of Syria, who ordered his soldiers to "eliminate" an Islamic uprising at Hama in 1982, an operation that left the dead in their thousands? Or of former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres, whose 1996 offensive against Lebanon culminated in the Israeli massacre of 106 Lebanese civilians in a UN camp at Qana?

In every case, the victims had been Muslims, just as they had been in the war unleashed by the man who most astonished the world by turning up in Amman yesterday, Boris Yeltsin, whose butchery in Chechnya is never mentioned in the West. I am alive, he was trying to tell us as he waved to the cameras and walked falteringly into the palace.

Mr Clinton paused to talk briefly to Assad before the Syrian leader took a car to the palace mosque rather than walk behind the coffin with the others. He didn't want, I suppose, to be seen with Sharon, Netanyahu and Shamir. But few outside saw more than a glassed-over vision of the men who rule the world. Sitting on the pavement by a motorway bridge, the people of the al-Nuzhah area of Amman just caught the briefest of glimpses of President Clinton in the back of a black limousine. Yasser Arafat's frozen, sick features, a gaggle of robed Saudis in their Mercedes

King Hussein created a nation out of a country and left it with a peace treaty that binds its people forever to Israel and America. For the crowds outside the palace gates yesterday, it seemed a chilling embrace. What the old king had done could not be undone. Peace, it was called. And inside the palace walls, King Hussein's favourite white station "Amr" reared up on his hind legs behind the coffin. As a mark of respect, it was said, he would never be ridden again.

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The long voyage is finally over as Dame Iris Murdoch dies, aged 79

BY KATHY MARKS AND
CLARE GARNER

IRIS MURDOCH, the novelist and philosopher whose descent into Alzheimer's was movingly charted in a book by her husband, John Bayley, has died aged 79.

Murdoch will be mourned as one of the finest and most prolific writers of her generation. She produced 26 novels, including *The Bell*, *A Severed Head* and the 1978 Booker Prize-winner *The Sea, The Sea*, as well as numerous works of philosophy.

Friends said she died at 4pm yesterday at Vale House, in Oxford, a hospice where she had spent the past three weeks. The cause of death was thought to be pneumonia. Mr Bayley, her husband of 43 years, was at her bedside.

Murdoch, who always said that she regarded herself as a "second-league" writer, was appointed Dame of the British Empire in 1987 for services to literature. She taught philosophy at St Anne's College, Oxford, and was nominated many times for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

She and Mr Bayley, a retired English literature professor at Oxford, had what each described as a perfect marriage. In his poignant and tender book, *Iris, A Memoir*, published in November, he wrote that the disease had brought them closer together.

"She is not sailing into the dark," he wrote. "The voyage is over, and, under the dark escort of Alzheimer's, she has arrived somewhere. So have I."

Tribute was paid last night by Paul Levy, a writer and long-time friend of the couple. He said that her novels were "Murdochian", as distinctive as the works of Proust or Kafka.

"It was her ability to create an entire world or universe that was recognisable as something special, as hers," he said. "You know that things happen in quite strange and interesting ways in a Murdoch world."

Bayley stunned the literary milieu when he revealed two years ago that not only was she suffering from Alzheimer's, but had already deteriorated so badly that she was incapable of simple acts of memory and communication.

"The power of concentration has gone, along with the ability to form coherent sentences and to remember where she is or has been," he wrote in *The New Yorker* magazine last July.

"She does not know she has written 26 remarkable novels as well as her books on philosophy,



Iris Murdoch and her husband John Bayley. He said that she was the most genuinely modest person he had ever met

Richard Judges/Rex Features

received honorary doctorates from major universities and become a Dame of the British Empire.

Murdoch was born in Dublin in July 1919, and was educated at Badminton School in Bristol before going on to Somerville College, Oxford, where she gained a first-class degree in classics.

She briefly joined the Communist Party and got a job at the Treasury during the war. When the war ended, she worked for the United Nations in displaced-persons' camps in Austria and Belgium.

It was during this period that she became involved with Raymond Queneau, the mathematician and novelist, and also fell under the spell of Jean-Paul Sartre, the leading

prophet of existentialism. Murdoch's first novel, *Under the Net*, was published in 1954. She won the Whitbread Prize in 1974 for *The Sacred and Profane Love Machine*. Her other novels include *The Nice and The Good*, *The Sandcastle* and *The Book and The Brotherhood*.

She and Bayley met at Oxford in 1964, when he was a gauche 26-year-old and she a don of 34, devastatingly attractive by many accounts, with a string of love affairs behind her. A contemporary recalled her as "pretty and buxom, with blonde hair and dirdl skirts".

Their marriage was said by friends to be "one of the great love stories". Marital bliss was accompanied by domestic disarray; their Oxford home was

chaotic, with a kitchen that was continually cluttered with belongings.

Some criticised Murdoch's novels as confined to the small milieu of the Hampstead intelligentsia; others said her books were too long and undisciplined. Her last, *Jackson's Dilemma*, published in 1996, received mixed reviews.

She herself believed that the novel should be a "huge, great place" that could express everything, in the manner of Shakespeare.

Murdoch first realised that something was amiss in 1995, but she initially thought that she was just suffering from a severe case of writer's block.

Jonathan Miller, president of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, said last night: "It is a

cruel and hideous disorder, and one can only admire the people who care for the person who suffers. John Bayley obviously cared for her with enormous courage and self-sacrifice."

Alison Denham, a philosophy fellow at St Anne's, said Murdoch had attended a college dinner only last term.

"John was marvellous," she said. "He would be very discreetly bringing her along. He would see that she was looked after without being ever present."

The college, which is arranging a memorial service, said in a statement last night: "Dame Iris was not only one of the most valued members of St Anne's College, but of Oxford University. Her creative talents, her intelligence and her kindness distinguished her in a most distinguished arena. She will be greatly missed."

TRIBUTE TO A WIFE

John Bayley on

Murdoch:

"Iris is without question the most genuinely modest person I have ever met, or if it comes to that, could ever imagine. Modesty is apt to be something acted, by each individual in his or her own way, part of the armoury with which people half-consciously build up the persona they wish others to become aware of, and with which they intend to confront the world. Iris has no pride in being modest; I don't think she even knows she is."

On the impact of Alzheimer's on their marriage:

"1 December 1997 (I think, a Sunday anyway.) [sic.] Life is no longer bringing the pair of us 'closer and closer apart', in the poet's tenderly ambiguous words. Every day we move closer and closer together. We could not do otherwise. There is a certain comic irony - happily not darkly comic - that after more than 40 years of taking marriage for granted, marriage has decided it is tired of this, and is taking a hand in the game. Purposefully, persistently, involuntarily, our marriage is now getting somewhere. It is giving us no choice, and I am glad of that. Every day we are physically closer, and Iris's little 'mouse cry', as I think of it, signifying loneliness in the next room, the wish to be back beside me, seems less and less forlorn, more simple, more natural. She is not sailing into the dark: the voyage is over, and under the dark escort of Alzheimer's she has arrived somewhere. So have I."

From *Iris: A memoir of Iris Murdoch*, by John Bayley (Duckworth, £16.95)

Alarming idiosyncratic, she freed a generation of writers

FROM THE beginning of her career, Iris Murdoch seemed to enlarge the possibilities in front of the English novel. She was a writer of wonderful, and sometimes rather alarming, idiosyncrasy; from her first novels, she explored a parish which was uniquely and unmistakably hers. But, somehow, by pursuing her desire only to be herself, she made it possible for generations of novelists after her to be more themselves.

Hers was a liberating and a generous imagination, an unacknowledged legislator not just of the English novel, but of the freedoms of the English mind.

Sometimes, of course, the idiosyncrasy seemed uppermost to her contemporaries. The huge splash made by her remarkably funny and cynical first novel, *Under the Net*, proved something of a red herring, and she was never afterwards such a natural comedian.

What she quickly established, instead, was a taste for intricate melodrama, married to scenes of serious philosophical debate, and a weakness for extravagant symbolism. The results, in early novels such as *The Bell*, are often thrilling, serious fantasies entirely without the besetting English sin of embarrassment. They never apologise, they never explain, and they are wonderful. They are purple, headlong, passionately involved and quite unlike anything that had been seen before.



Iris Murdoch at the start of her career

Something so new and so shameless could not, of course, expect to have an easy ride, and with their huge casts and deliberately fanciful settings, Murdoch's novels found many detractors. Ivy Compton-Burnett, who might have been expected to be interested in another arch-individualist, was probably typical; her standard response on being asked if one ought to read a new Murdoch was: "I don't think you need trouble." Something so outrageously enjoyable could hardly be serious, and a great game of knocking Murdoch began to take place.

But the whole climate had changed. The thrilling spirit of fantasy and epic which began to come into the English novel in the early Sixties was, surely, sparked off by her determined individuality. Although few novelists imitated her di-

rectly, there are hardly any ambitious writers left unmarked by the encounter.

AS Byatt, Doris Lessing, John Fowles, Angela Carter, even Alasdair Gray's hugely influential *Lanark*, the best writers of the time seemed to be liberated by the possibilities she had revealed, made free to grow bigger than their teacher.

She was at her best, I think, in the novels of the late Sixties and early Seventies, which refute that ignorant argument which holds that the English novel was then parochial and unambitious. The symbolism relaxes - the slightly clunking appearances of the sword in *A Severed Head* is replaced by the unforgettable device of the swimming pool in *A Fairly Honourable Defeat*. The readability of a novel like *A Word Child* or *The Black Prince* is almost appealingly powerful.

The novels manage to be playful, fictive, symmetrical, and retain their responsibility to the outside world, so that she can discuss the ethical problems of the Vietnam draft-dodgers and orchestrate and pattern a party scene until it resembles the masque in *The Tempest*. The besetting sin of whimsy is not entirely absent - the space ship at the end of the otherwise very fine *The Nice and the Good* is tough to deal with - but for half a dozen novels, here is an exuberant, carnival intelligence doing exactly what she chooses.

And that, surely, ought to be

enough. It is undeniable that things started to go wrong from the late Seventies onwards. *The Sea, The Sea*, which won the Booker Prize, is very far from being her best book, and after that a slow process of withdrawal began to take place.

Of course, she could still rise to the grand old manner from time to time, as the under-rated *Nuns and Soldiers* or *The Philosopher's Pupil* quickly shows. But the whimsy starts to become overpowering.

We know now, thanks to her husband, the intimate details of her last decline - the uncommissioned confessions of a writer who had never chosen to write about herself before. And it might be tempting, in those last novels, to look for something of that mental decline. But it is not there, or perhaps only in the abbreviations and effortful elaborations of her last, *Jackson's Dilemma*. Until then, there is only a powerful mind, doing exactly what it wants to do, pursuing an increasingly arid and wilful path.

She never lost that blissful readability, but, by the Eighties, she had done what she could. And it will do; it emphatically will do. She is too strange, too idiosyncratic a writer to go on being read in total, but, at her best, she made you realise what the novel could do, and her voice is everywhere. *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.*

PHILIP HENSHER

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Three die in meningitis outbreak

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THE WORST outbreak of meningitis for a year has struck three schools in south Wales. Eleven people have been stricken with the disease, three of whom have died, triggering a public health emergency.

Medical staff were yesterday treating 1,500 children in Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, with antibiotics in an attempt to halt the spread of the disease which is running at record levels nationwide. There were 334 cases of meningitis across the country in the first two weeks of 1999, the highest for any two-week period in the past 50 years.

Gareth Gould, 15, who had been studying for his GCSEs at Coedylan Comprehensive School in Pontypridd died last week hours after complaining of a mild headache. Yesterday, a 50-year-old teacher and mother of two, Lynne James, from the Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive school, died after being admitted to hospital on Sunday night.

The 11 people who have contracted the disease in the area since the beginning of February include seven children from three schools. A 60-year-old woman died last week.

The outbreak is the worst since that in Ironville, south Derbyshire in early 1998. Meningitis is a cyclical disease with peaks every 10 to 15 years and nationally the number of cases has risen sharply in the last three years. The number of cases is now running at about 2,600 a year - twice the level in 1995.

Doctors from Bro Taf health authority in Cardiff said they were dealing with a new aggressive sub-type of the virulent C strain of meningitis. One in 10 of the population carries the bacteria that cause meningitis in the back of their throat although only a few are vulnerable to developing the disease. Giving antibiotics kills



Gareth Gould, 15, who died hours after complaining of a headache. Right: The Cardinal Newman school, where meningitis victim Lynne James, 50, taught



than 1,000 pupils. They turned up with their parents, uncles and grannies and everything went very smoothly. The help we had from parents and from staff was phenomenal. It restores your faith in humanity."

He said one other pupil remained in a critical condition with meningitis while four others were stable or recovering. Dr Marion Evans, consultant in communicable diseases at Bro Taf health authority, said: "We are extremely concerned by this outbreak and are asking parents to be extra vigilant and alert to the symptoms."

"We are carrying out tests and believe it could be a strain we have not come across previously. Antibiotics and vaccination will be just as effective on the new strain. It is treatable but diagnosis must be made quickly and treatment given promptly."

The scale of the rise in meningitis cases in recent years has taken the experts by surprise. A spokeswoman for the Meningitis Research Foundation said: "The totals for 1997 and 1998 are the highest for 50 years. We hope it is plateauing and will go down but at the moment there is no sign of it. The figures are very high and we are concerned to raise awareness to ensure prompt diagnosis and early treatment."

She said the C2A strain identified in Mid Glamorgan had been around for a few years although it was among the newer ones. About 40 per cent of cases are caused by the C strain with the remainder caused by the B strain. There are seven or eight major types of each strain.

The Meningitis Research Foundation is operating a free 24-hour helpline: 0800 800 3344.

Dublin calls for return of Mitchell the peacemaker

THE IRISH government yesterday suggested the return to Belfast of the former US Senator George Mitchell, who successfully chaired the talks which led to last year's Good Friday Agreement, in an attempt to resolve the arms decommissioning issue.

Although the proposal met with a lukewarm response, the floating of the idea is seen as a sign that Britain and Ireland are exploring all options in an effort to crack the problem by their target date of 10 March.

The issue was raised by Mary Harney, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, who said that since Mr Mitchell could be trusted by everybody, there might well be a role for him now.

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

She added: "It may well come to American intervention. We have to call on those that have had the capacity in the past to resolve difficulties. It may well now be necessary."

In response, the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble and Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams both indicated that they believed Mr Mitchell's return would be premature, though neither ruled out his involvement at a later stage.

The SDLP's deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, was sceptical, commenting: "It would transfer problems from the floor of the Assembly to

another room somewhere." The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, said she was reticent about re-involving Mr Mitchell, adding: "At the end of the day it's up to the party leaders." Ms Mowlam also took heart from a Belfast Telegraph opinion poll which suggested widespread support for weapons decommissioning, even among Sinn Féin supporters.

The poll, of 1,100 people, said 84 per cent of those questioned wanted guns handed over immediately. More intriguingly the poll also reported that 58 per cent of Sinn Féin supporters said they wanted to see the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries hand over weapons.

These figures were immediately attacked by Mitchell McLaughlin, of Sinn Féin, who said they represented a distortion. He added: "It has no credibility at all. Any political scientist could tell you that." The Sinn Féin figure was, however, so high and so unexpected that the poll will now be closely analysed by all sides.

Ms Mowlam has launched a new round of talks with Belfast parties to discuss decommissioning and other issues. Many of Northern Ireland's political leaders have meanwhile flown to Brussels to urge the EU to keep payments to the province at a high level.

David McKittrick, Review, page 4

£250,000 for ecstasy victim brain-damaged by hospital

A BRAIN-DAMAGED woman who lost the ability to speak and write after taking ecstasy at a nightclub yesterday won £250,000 agreed damages in the High Court from the hospital that treated her.

In what is believed to be the first compensation pay-out of its kind, Lorraine Leighton, now aged 25, had sued North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust over the care she received after she was admitted in January 1995.

Ms Leighton sat next to her parents in court as her counsel, Duncan Pratt, said her case was "a question of both tragedy and triumph".

Ms Leighton had been left with a catalogue of neurologi-

cal disabilities which she and her family had fought hard to overcome, Mr Pratt said.

The former beautician, who is not expected to work again, had had to relearn how to write, swallow, feed herself and communicate.

Ms Leighton had taken two half tablets of ecstasy before she collapsed and was admitted, semi-conscious, to North Middlesex Hospital in north London, the court was told.

Mr Pratt claimed that Miss Leighton's problems were "eminently correctable" when she arrived in hospital and that there was little or no active investigation or management of

her condition during her first 48 hours there. During that time she suffered irreversible brain damage, the court was told. It was also claimed that the administration of fluids exacerbated her problems.

The trust, which denied liability, admitted breach of duty in that some mandatory investigations were not performed by the medical staff who admitted Ms Leighton. It also admitted that it was not appropriate to continue with fluids beyond a certain point.

The trust said that if the case had not been settled, it would have argued that the brain swelling suffered by Ms Leighton was a direct toxic effect of taking ecstasy, so any

mismanagement there might have been was not the cause of her brain damage. It also claimed that Ms Leighton had contributed to her own injury by taking the drug.

Dr Thomas Leigh of the Medical Defence Union, said yesterday: "Anybody who has been a victim of medical negligence should be compensated swiftly and fairly. One cannot distinguish between people on the basis of what they have done to be in hospital."

A spokeswoman for the charity Action for Victims of Medical Accidents said that she believed this was the first time an ecstasy victim had received compensation following a civil action.

IN BRIEF

Mencap says jail terms 'too short'

SENTENCES ON a care homes owner and worker guilty of ill-treating residents with learning difficulties were criticised as too lenient yesterday by the disability charity Mencap. Donald Lee, 49, and David Poole, 40, were given six and three months jail terms, half to be suspended.

Councillor beat neighbour

A 64-YEAR-OLD councillor and former acting police authority chairman was found guilty of unlawful wounding after hitting a neighbour with a pickaxe handle. Dennis Jones, of Croes Pen Maen, south Wales, hit Alan Carter in a dispute over children playing in the street.

Fly London to Dublin for £9.99

THE COST of flying between Dublin and London has been cut to a one-way fare of £9.99. Ryanair made the move in a dispute over plans to increase airport landing charges in Dublin. The carrier's chief executive Michael O'Leary said that £9.99 of passengers had voted in a ballot to back the airline's stand against higher charges.

Firm fined over manure in water

ANGLIAN WATER was fined £15,000 with £5,521 costs for supplying water contaminated with bacteria from cow and pig manure. People suffered diarrhoea and stomach cramps. The company pleaded guilty at Ipswich Crown Court to providing water unfit for human consumption.

Damages for 'birthday treat' woman

A WOMAN injured in a helicopter crash on her 36th birthday was awarded £200,903 damages in the High Court yesterday. Ina Jacobs, of Canvey Island, Essex, suffered a devastating injury to her hand in the crash at Southend airport in May 1993. The flight had been arranged as a birthday treat.

Striker's England caps found

ENGLAND CAPS and medals belonging to former striker Mark Hateley were found at a second-hand shop 150 miles from his home, from where they were stolen five years ago. Two men tried to sell them to a shop in Newcastle upon Tyne, but fled when the owner became suspicious.

DAVID MCKITTRICK

In Belfast, a political pressure-cooker is under construction

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

'Dandy' leprechaun is no joke, say Irish

A LEPRECHAUN by the name of Fiddle O'Diddle is at the centre of allegations of racism involving one of Britain's best-known comics.

The Dandy, home over the past 60 years to characters such as Desperate Dan and Bananaman, has been accused of deliberately trying to make the Irish look stupid.

Those levelling the accusations say it is particularly unpleasant because of the age of the comic's readers.

The offending character, O'Diddle, from fictitious Rathprune, sparked controversy when, in a recent edition of the comic, he was featured trying to grow a black-pudding tree. His catchphrase, which is regularly used, is: "Sure 'ting."

Telephone lines to a Dublin radio show were jammed with listeners calling in to complain.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

One farmer called the Joe Duffy Live! show and said the comic's racism was sinister. But staff at the Dundee-based Dandy were defiant yesterday, accusing detractors of political correctness and refusing to spike the leprechaun or alter his character.

The Dandy's editor, Morris Heggie, devised O'Diddle during a visit to an Irish comic fair. He said: "In the story Fiddle O'Diddle from Rathprune is the smartest leprechaun in Ireland and most of the stories involve people trying to catch him for a crock of gold."

"I think it was the black-pudding story that has caused all this fuss. This is all madcap stuff. Both the heroes and villains in the story are Irish."

"We are portrayed as tight-

fisted, kilt-wearing, caber-tossing Scots, and it's the same with the English and the Welsh. No one is safe from being lampooned on our pages."

David Donaldson, managing director of the comic's publisher, DC Thomson, said readers were aware of the difference between the real world and life portrayed in the Dandy.

"Look at Father Ted. Nobody seriously believes all Irish priests are like that," said Mr Donaldson. He added: "Heaven help us if we have to water down any more. We have had minority pressure groups complaining about this and that."

Like many comics, the Dandy - first published in 1937 and still selling 100,000 copies a week - has had to cut down on violence, ruling out traditional scenes of punch-ups and corporal punishment.

Three in rooftop jailbreak

POLICE ARE hunting three prisoners who went on the run after making a spectacular rooftop escape.

They clambered to the top of an accommodation block after gaining access to an air vent in a shower-room. Prison officers gave chase across the roof at Featherstone prison, near Wolverhampton, and a fourth prisoner taking part in the break-out was caught before he could escape.

But the other three crossed

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

on to the roof of the prison gate lodge and jumped down into the car park.

The escapees fled into a nearby housing estate, pursued by prison staff. The prisoners' first attempt to steal a car failed but they managed to "hot-wire" a second vehicle and drove off. All three prisoners lived near the medium-security prison.

The escape took place at 6.30pm on Sunday, when prisoners are allowed to socialise as part of their "association" period. The prisoners were named as Shane Middleton, from Birmingham, who had served four years of an 11-year sentence for robbery, Warren Banford, from Redditch, West Midlands, serving four years for burglary, and Brendan Somerville, from Birmingham, who was serving three years for burglary.

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Jury to visit site of war crimes

THE JUDGE and jury in Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial will next week visit Belarus in eastern Europe to see where four murders were allegedly committed more than 56 years ago. In an unprecedented move, the court will travel to the former Soviet republic as part of the trial of Anthony Sawoniuk.

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from Bermondsey, south London, is alleged to have murdered four Jews, two men and two women, in 1942 while a police officer in what was then German-occupied territory.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey, the judge, Mr Justice Fott, told the jury the case they were trying was "highly unusual". He told them: "The defendant was a police officer serving in a small town called Domachevo, near Brest, while the German army occupied the region. It is alleged that he assisted the Germans in putting into effect the policy of mass murder of the local Jewish population. 'If either you or your family has suffered as a result of German action against Jewish or other races or religions then it would be better if you did not serve on this jury.'"

Mr Sawoniuk, a retired rail worker, is charged with four counts of murder on dates between 19 September and 31 December 1942. He has denied all charges.

Yesterday Mr Sawoniuk, thick-set, white-haired and wearing a grey pullover and red tie, sat at a table in the well of the court in front of the dock. He was silent as the jury was selected from a panel of 39 - all of whom had been told the trial could last to the end of March.

John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, told the jury the intention of the visit - arranged at the request of the defence - was to allow them to see where the crimes were said to have

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE



Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, leaving the Old Bailey yesterday. He is charged with murdering four people in Belarus in 1942

been committed. He said: "The judge ordered that the jury have the advantage of visiting the scene where these events took place in order to better understand... the town itself, the terrain and the site where Mr Sawoniuk is alleged to have murdered a number of Jews."

He said that over the coming days, the Crown would call Professor Christopher Browning, "an expert of matters relating to the Holocaust and... to the 'Final Solution'."

The trial, which is certain to reopen the debate about whether defendants can receive a fair trial half a century after their alleged crimes, follows the passing in 1991 of the War Crimes Act. The Act extended British jurisdiction to cover alleged war crimes committed by non-British nationals in German-controlled territory during the Second World War.

At the time it was estimated there were about 300 possible war criminals in Britain - most of them former members of police units from the Baltic states and eastern Europe.

In 1996 a case involving Szymon Serafinowicz, who was accused on three specimen charges of murdering Jews in Belarus, collapsed before reaching trial. Mr Serafinowicz, 88, who denied the charges, was found to be suffering from Alzheimer's disease, heart problems and cancer. He died seven months later.

Yesterday the hearing was adjourned at lunchtime to allow the jurors to receive inoculations against hepatitis, typhoid, diphtheria, tetanus and polio in preparation for the visit. The judge warned them to take warm clothes, adding: "This will not be a holiday."

The case continues.

Actress faces charity fund row

BY CLARE GARNER

PENELOPE KEITH was last night facing calls for her resignation as president of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. The actress, best-known for her roles in television comedies, was under pressure after the fund settled out of court a claim for wrongful dismissal from its former general secretary.

The agreement spared Ms Keith from having to give evidence to support the sacking of Rosemary Stevens, 48, who was at the charity for 16 years.

Michael Thornton, 58, author and fund supporter, called for Ms Keith, president for nine years, and the executive council to resign. He said it was the second employment tribunal claim to be resolved by the charity in six months. "They have chosen not to face the music," he said. "They should all go, and go now, handing over their responsibilities to others with better judgement and a greater sense of accountability to the members and supporters of the Actors' Benevolent Fund."

The acrimonious departure of Mrs Stevens, who held a £28,500-a-year post, last summer plunged the fund into crisis. The institution, founded in 1882, looks after retired and needy members of the theatrical profession. Four of the executive council's 16 members, including Nicholas Grace, who was in *Brideshead Revisited*, and Angharad Rees, star of *Poldark*, resigned in protest.

Ms Keith, 58, who starred in BBC Television's *The Good Life*, left the tribunal in central London without comment. Kathy Pavey, the fund's solicitor, described the settlement as "amicable" and said the terms would remain confidential.

A written statement from the fund council welcomed the settlement, saying: "The fund is running extremely efficiently. The president has the support of the whole council and does not intend to resign."

Private school firm to focus on performing arts

THE COMMERCIAL arm of a specialist school is set to become the first private company to run a British state school.

The education authority in Surrey said last night that the company 3 E's Enterprises, set up by Kingshurst City Technology College in Solihull in the West Midlands, was in the lead to secure the contract to run Kings' Manor, a failing comprehensive school in Guildford.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Any profits will be ploughed back into Kings' Manor. The firm says that it wants to establish a college which will focus on both the performing arts and technology. It said in its bid that it wanted "a high status college with students rather than pupils."

The term 'students' will be used to indicate the responsible approach to education that we will expect from the young people who attend."

It aims to make Kings' Manor one of the first life-long learning colleges of the 21st century, offering teaching for all age groups.

The firm, which has a panel of experts on academic standards and special needs, has the backing of more than 50 sponsors and has already raised £10m for two schools.

3 E's was in competition with CEBT Educational Services, a not-for-profit consultancy and Nord Anglia, a consultancy that runs a string of private schools, careers services, teacher supply agencies and is a supplier of school inspectors.

Surrey council said 3 E's emerged as the leading contender after consultation with legal, financial and educational experts as well as teachers, pupils and parents.

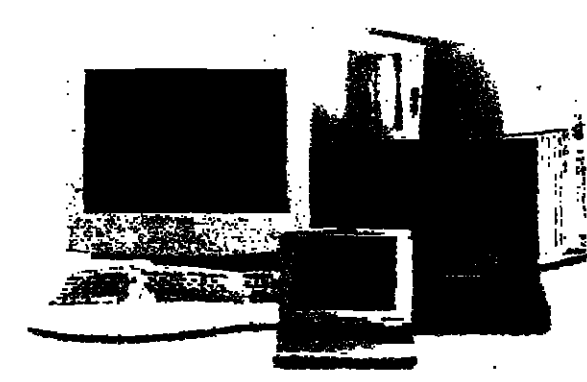
Parents, who were originally unhappy about a takeover by a private company, said that their preference was for 3 E's.

"Kings' Manor is ideally placed to become one of the first educational establishments of the 21st century which provides life-long learning opportunities to enhance the quality of life of those of all ages in the area," the company said.

Surrey will pay the company a fee and performance related bonuses for meeting targets for improved exam results. Final details will now be negotiated.

Kings' Manor has places for 900, but is only half full. It is at the bottom of the county's league tables. Only 20 per cent of pupils gained five good GCSEs this year.

Professor David Guest, professor of occupational psychology at London University, and Tony Hope, visiting professor of accounting at the French business school INSEAD, said yesterday that Government plans to introduce performance related pay for teachers and nurses would not work. Professor Hope said that performance related pay was yesterday's reward system.



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'Support me' campaign by Livingstone

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

KEN LIVINGSTONE seized the initiative in his bid to become Mayor of London yesterday when he launched a high-profile public campaign to persuade Tony Blair to allow him to stand as Labour candidate.

In a move that took the party leadership by surprise, the former GLC leader went on the offensive with a full-page newspaper advertisement announcing a "Back Ken" rally to be held next week.

The advert, in the London *Evening Standard*, will be followed by thousands of leaflets carrying the slogan "Let Ken Livingstone Stand" as the Brent East MP takes his message directly to Londoners and party members.

Mr Livingstone's supporters hope that the campaign will attract enough support to make it too embarrassing for Labour to block him from any party shortlist for the mayoralty.

However, the new publicity blitz was immediately attacked by Blairite loyalists who dismissed it as a "desperate, last-chance" tactic that was likely to backfire.

The rally at Central Hall, Westminster, will be backed by the comedian Jo Brand and the pop singer Billy Bragg and will focus a concerted attempt to set up a pro-Ken organisation within each of the 14 districts forming the new Greater London Authority.

The advertisement, titled "Read Ken?", uses nine of the MP's recent quotes to counter what he claims is an attempt by Millbank officials to smear him as a dangerous left-winger.

One of the quotes, taken from an open letter to Tony Blair last month, states: "There is simply no question whatever of my seeking to use the mayoralship as a platform to wage political warfare against this



The advert in yesterday's *Evening Standard*, and pop singer Billy Bragg who is backing Ken



Government." Another quote, from *The Independent* last November, states: "Personally I am in favour of Labour winning elections, which means selecting candidates from the widest and most representative pool, and taking the troops with you."

The campaign will be funded by public contributions, he said, and appealed for supporters to send him "the price of a pint of lager or a pack of fags each week".

Mr Livingstone stressed yesterday that he wanted to show the Prime Minister the strength of feeling among the ordinary public in the capital.

"This is not my campaign to be Mayor. This is my campaign to be allowed to stand. It is aimed at changing the one vote which really matters, which is Tony Blair's."

"It's ridiculous to think it's been nearly a year since Londoners voted in a referendum and still Labour is not getting its act together and the Tories are off and running."

Labour's strategy was to put the contest "off and off" in the hope that his campaign would self-destruct, he claimed. "I have no intention of self-destructing," he said.

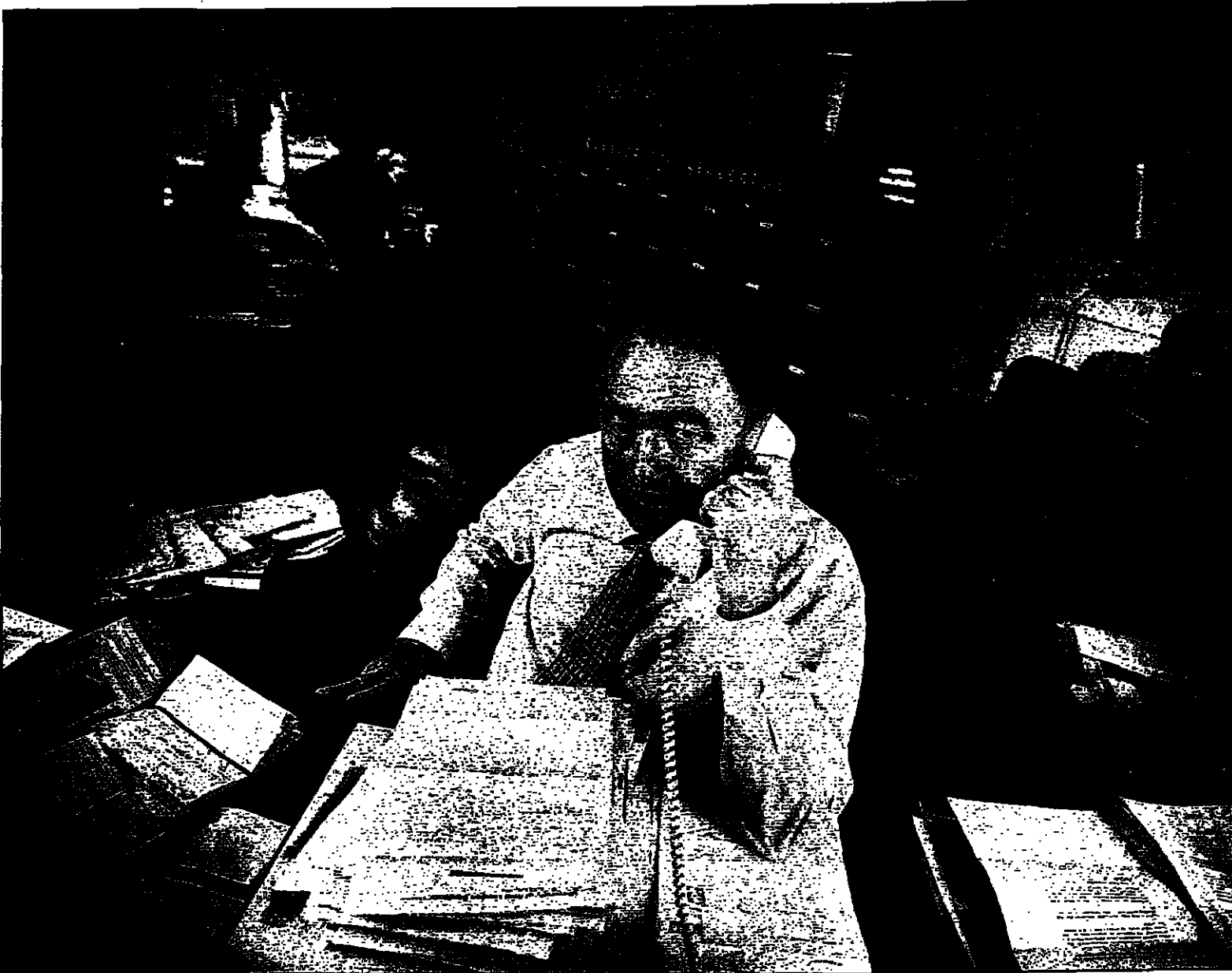
A party spokesman refused to comment on Mr Livingstone's campaign, but Joan Ryan, Labour MP for Enfield North and member of the London Labour Party board, accused him of "childish" tactics. "It is not acceptable. I think the public are fed up with it. He should wait his turn," she said.

London's 70,000 Labour Party members will be asked this autumn to vote on their choice in time for the election in May 2000.

But the party leadership is still wrestling with the problem that it has no mainstream candidate who is likely to beat Mr Livingstone in a one-member, one-vote contest. A selection panel has been appointed by the party's National Executive and is expected to draw up a shortlist after the European elections in June.

Party sources have frequently made plain that the panel will block Mr Livingstone's nomination on the grounds that he has criticised party policy and failed to back the idea of a mayoralty until recently.

Gillian Shephard, the shadow Environment Secretary, said: "If they cannot trust the people of London to choose their own Labour candidate, then their talk about trusting the people is empty prattle."



Ken Livingstone in his Westminster office: "This campaign is aimed at changing the one vote which matters - Tony Blair's" Neville Elder

Why I'm challenging my party to let me stand for mayor



KEN LIVINGSTONE

Labour's faceless bureaucrats seem intent on screwing it up by getting involved in a pointless row about who should be Labour's candidate. No doubt with this in mind, the London Labour Party membership at their annual conference last summer voted overwhelmingly that anybody who was nominated by 10 local Labour parties should be included on the final ballot form to choose our candidate. Since then the transport union TGWU has proposed a compromise based on this formula which would allow Labour to vet those candidates not achieving the 10 nomination quota. Instead of accepting this sensible compromise, Clare Short's famous people in the shadows have opted instead for a panel of party appointees to vet the candidates in private.

Anyone who doubts the neutrality of the party machine had all their worst suspicions confirmed last week when I published an open letter to Tony Blair giving a categorical undertaking that I would not use the mayoralty to undermine the government. Within hours London Labour Party press office had issued a statement denouncing my promise as a "publicity stunt" aimed at "dup-

ing party members" and in the nicest possible way dismissing me as a liar.

That is why yesterday I launched a campaign not to become mayor, but to allow London Labour Party members the right to choose who they wish as their candidate. At 7.30pm next Monday Jo Brand has agreed to chair the first rally of this campaign at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. The Millbank Tendency have spent months giving off-the-record briefings to journalists rubbishing my record as leader of the GLC. This is a bit odd given that virtually all the controversial policies that caused such a stir back in 1981 have now become mainstream Labour policy. It's not just the easy issues of pro-public trans-

port priorities and democratic control of the police - the GLC's battle against discrimination was a major contribution in winning the hearts and minds of ordinary members. We now have over 100 women Labour MPs, a black senior Minister and openly gay Cabinet ministers.

Even our most controversial policy of beginning a dialogue with Sinn Féin is now seen to have been right. What a tragedy that Mrs Thatcher didn't follow our lead and save the thousand lives that were lost in the intervening years.

So far every survey has shown that I am the leading party political candidate in the polls. In the last poll I even overtook Richard Branson. Given that this election will take place in May 2000, in the mid-term of the government and after what may be a rather grim year economically, it would be madness not to let the members choose from amongst the strongest contenders. Simply because the Tories are currently lagging in the polls does not mean that we should take Londoners' votes for granted.

Nor am I merely the first choice of old Labour sentimentalists. Two weeks ago the *Evening Standard* reported a poll in which 500 company di-

rectors were asked to spontaneously name their preferred candidate for mayor. 19 per cent chose me with just 5 per cent each for Jeffrey Archer and Richard Branson. Other mayoral contenders lagged behind these poor percentages with just 1 or 2 per cent.

No one would have predicted at the height of the GLC that I would lead the field amongst business leaders, so what has changed - me or them? The blunt fact is that City bosses depend on a sound public transport system if London is to remain attractive as a site for business HQs. It is even more amazing to talk to these captains of industry and discover that many would be prepared to pay a voluntary levy if it was guaranteed to be spent on modernising the tube system.

Yesterday's full page advert in the *Evening Standard* was immediately denounced as an attempt to "bully" my way into the nomination with sinister implications about where the money was coming from. Well, I've spent all the Russian gold and the Libyan petrodollars, so hopefully the advert will be paid for by the donations of ordinary Londoners who believe it is their right to decide who is mayor and nobody else's.

Noye murder extradition cleared by Spanish court

THREE SPANISH National Court judges yesterday approved the extradition of Britain's most wanted man, Kenneth Noye, who is sought in connection with the M25 road-rage murder in May 1996. Court sources said yesterday that the 36-page ruling in favour of extraditing Mr Noye would be made official when the three judges formally signed it at around midday today.

Mr Noye, who argued vehemently against extradition at a court hearing in Madrid last week, has three days in which to appeal against the decision. If his legal team decide to do so, this would prolong Mr

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

Noye's stay in a jail near Madrid for weeks if not months, until a plenary session of the National Court decides his fate. Otherwise he could be put on a plane within days and handed over to Kent Police, who submitted the extradition request last September.

Mr Noye told Madrid's high-security court last Monday that he did not want to be extradited because the British media would make it impossible for him to receive a fair trial.

Mr Noye insisted he had nothing to do with the stabbing

to death of Stephen Cameron, 21, on a motorway slip road near Swanley, Kent, nearly three years ago.

Glaring at dozens of British journalists massed behind a bullet-proof glass screen, he begged to be allowed to stand trial in Spain, adding: "I've already had my trial in England, by the media."

Mr Noye, 51, was arrested in the early hours of 29 August last year in a dramatic police raid on a restaurant in the southern Spanish town of Barbate near Cadiz. The sloop followed an international manhunt extending from Tenerife to Cyprus which was carried out after Mr

Noye skipped Britain shortly after Mr Cameron was killed.

Mr Noye's principal line of defence was that the procedure whereby he was identified, by photograph rather than by identity parade, did not stand up in Spanish law.

But Spain's chief state prosecutor, Eduardo Fungairino, last week argued that Britain had submitted a watertight extradition plea and had "presented an absolutely convincing account of the events surrounding the stabbing and had come to the conclusion that the crime could have been committed by no other person than Kenneth Noye."

Firms sold 'too many' phones

RECORD MOBILE phone sales over the Christmas period have led to a sharp rise in the number of customer complaints as companies fall victim to their own success, it emerged today.

Mike Caldwell, Vodafone's head of communications, admitted the company had sold "too many" phones over Christmas and was struggling to keep up with calls from customers. He said Vodafone had subjected customers to "totally un-

BY TONY BROWN

satisfactory" delays in dealing with repairs after being overwhelmed by demand.

There was a threefold increase in total mobile phone sales in the UK in the last quarter of 1998 compared with the previous year, with some 2.5 million new customers.

"On Christmas Day alone we connected more customers than we did in the first four

months of 1998, and in the last quarter gained 933,000 more customers," he said.

The rush meant subscribers were having to wait longer to have payment queries answered, and faced delays of several weeks for simple repairs such as the replacement of faulty microchips.

Vodafone confirmed it was recruiting 500 staff for its new service centre in Birmingham, which is to open in March.

Ofel, the phone regulator, said the number of complaints it has received had increased and it was talking to the "big four" operators - Orange, Vodafone, Cellnet and One2One - about how they can improve. It is due to publish its first report on the number and nature of complaints in early summer.

An Orange spokesman said customers were having difficulties contacting the company, it regretted the inconvenience.

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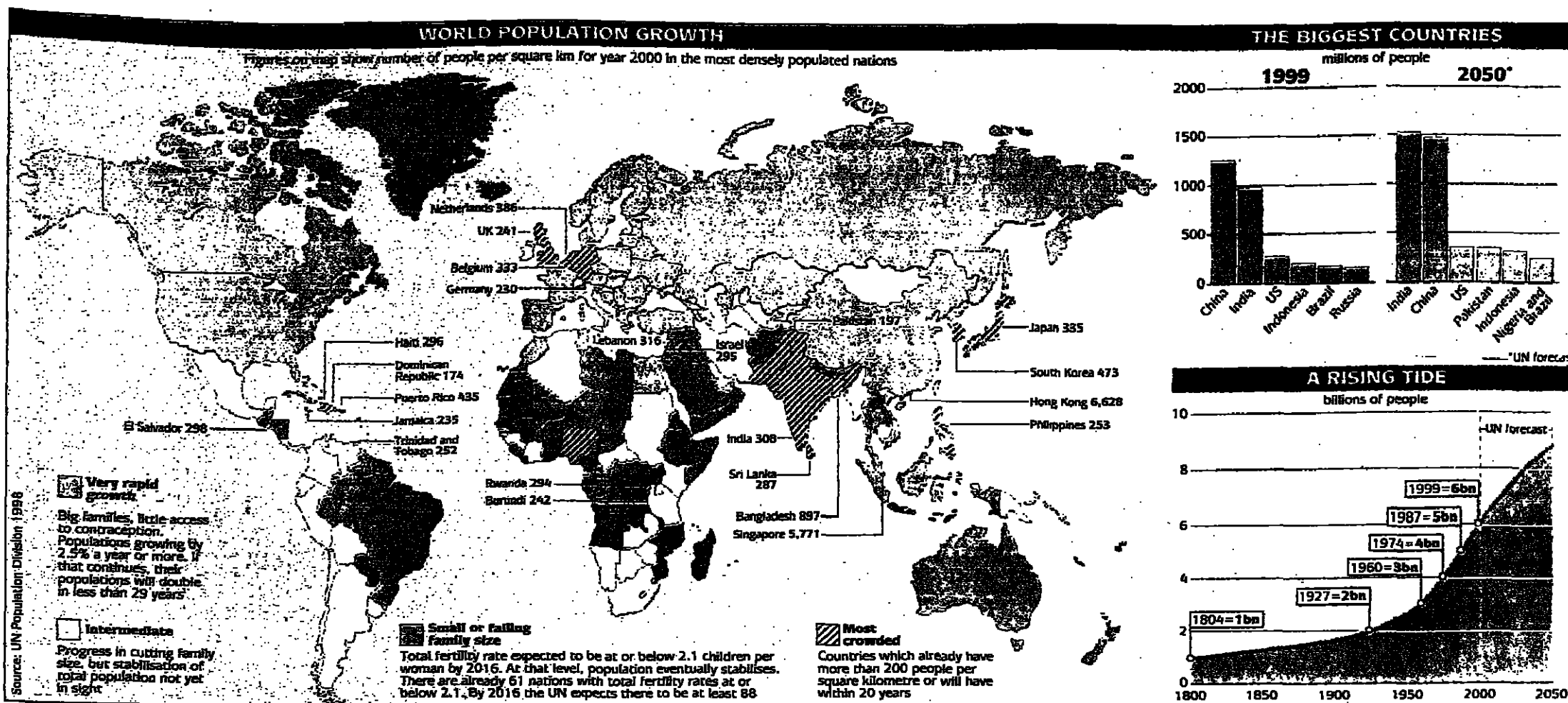
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World population to top 6 billion

ON 12 OCTOBER this year – give or take a week – the human population of Earth will reach six billion. It has risen by a billion in just a dozen years, and almost quadrupled during the 20th century.

The data was presented at a conference yesterday in The Hague as delegates from 180 nations gathered in the Netherlands for the United Nations *Hague Forum* to debate how to slow the rising tide of human numbers which is still threatening disaster across much of the globe.

Earth has never been so demographically divided. At one extreme, wealthy Western nations where fertility has been falling worry about the strains on their economies imposed by a fast-growing bulge of elderly, retired people. A group of Eastern European nations and Russia have seen a dramatic decline in birth

rates; if the trend continues their populations will fall fast.

At the other extreme is a clutch of developing nations which already rely on food imports and seem entrapped by a combination of poverty and high population growth and density. Lacking resources, and with nearly all their fertile land in use, the prospects for places such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt and Haiti appear bleak.

Furthermore, an endless cycle of wars in developing countries is hurting women and drowning out the message that family planning brings social benefits, the conference was told.

"It is pointless to talk about family-planning issues or reproductive health when women are in situations of conflict and genocide," said Nana Rawlings,

the wife of Ghana's President, Jerry Rawlings. Goals, such as universal access to reproductive health services by 2015, were meaningless when women had to struggle to survive, she argued in a keynote speech.

Globally, the growth in human numbers is slowing. Even so, the population will reach 8.9 billion in 2050, according to the latest forecast of the UN Population Division. And it will not level off until around 2200, by which time there will be nearly 11 billion people alive.

The slowdown is happening because women in more and more countries are able to have fewer children, and are choosing to do so. There is a web of causes – higher standards of living, greater access to contraception, changing attitudes and declining infant mortality which gives mothers more reason to believe their babies will survive.



Nana Rawlings: 'Women are struggling to survive'

But big families and overpopulation still stunt hundreds of millions of lives across the world. The Hague Forum, which brings together 1,500 delegates from governments,

charities, campaigning groups and academia, is trying to reach agreement on what more needs to be done. Hilary Clinton, the wife of the United States President, will speak there today on her way back to Washington from King Hussein's funeral in Jordan.

"Before the dawn of the next millennium, the six billionth human inhabitant of this planet will be born," the Dutch Health Minister, Els Borst-Eilers, said in an opening speech.

"The crucial question is to what extent that child will be able to live a dignified, productive and happy life."

The forum is part of the follow up to a huge UN Population Conference held in Cairo five years ago, and a prelude to a larger follow-up conference next month which ministers will attend. An overwhelming majority of the world's nations

agreed on a 20-year plan of action to spread family planning and boost women's health, education and rights – the keys to reducing high fertility rates. The aim was for universal access to affordable reproductive health services by 2015.

Since then, there has been progress, but many pressure groups and delegates from developing countries gathering in The Hague were complaining that most wealthy Western nations had not fulfilled the commitments they made in Cairo.

In signing up to that action plan, nations agreed that the developing and former Communist countries should be spending \$17 bn (£10.7bn) on meeting their commitments by 2000, and \$21.7 bn by 2015. Wealthy, developed countries should meet one-third of this cost, in the form of aid and loans on easy terms.

But, according to Population Action International, an independent United States-based pressure group, the industrialised nations are now contributing less than half their share. Campaigner Sally Ethelston singled out France and Italy for particular criticism. The Scandinavian nations and the Netherlands had met their commitments, while the US, Britain, Japan and Germany were lagging behind.

The West's official aid for the world's poorest countries has fallen to the lowest level in a decade, new figures revealed yesterday. And as a proportion of rich countries' income, the figures have not been smaller since records began nearly 40 years ago. An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report showed aid in 1997 was \$49.6bn (around £30bn) against \$57.9bn in 1996.

Teacher jailed over cruelty

By MICHAEL BRISTOW

A LANGUAGE teacher who forced a 14-year-old boy to lie bare-chested on drawing pins after getting his Spanish homework wrong was jailed for six weeks yesterday.

Kevin Hawkins, 40, of Hardwicke, near Gloucester, also forced the pupil to walk bare-foot across drawing pins.

Hawkins was given a three-month prison sentence, half of which was suspended, after admitting common assault at South Gloucestershire magistrates' court in Stroud.

He was told by Yvonne Cant, one of the magistrates: "You were in a position of trust and authority. At your instruction a pupil who, at the age of 14 must be considered vulnerable, was subjected to a completely unprovoked assault."

Martin Setchell, for the prosecution, said Hawkins, a teacher at a school near Stroud, had told the teenager to call at his home last November after the pupil failed to hand in his Spanish homework on time.

He tested the boy on Spanish verbs and told him to perform a forfeit for each one he got wrong. The first was to stand on one leg, the second was to do five press-ups and the third was to walk across drawing pins scattered on a floor.

For the next forfeit, Hawkins told the boy to remove his top and lie bare-chested on the pins. The teenager suffered a minor puncture wound to his chest and reported the matter to his school and police.

Conrad Sheward, for the defence, said Hawkins had resigned after the incident, ending a 17-year teaching career. "Teaching can be a very fulfilling occupation, but sometimes it can distort the development of the teacher," said Mr Sheward.

"If you spend most of your hours with schoolchildren, sometimes you behave like a child."

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Darling bumbles on and on while backbenchers daydream

SOCIAL SECURITY questions do not normally set the House of Commons on fire and yesterday afternoon was no exception.

Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, bumbled on and on about Green Papers on pensions and Green Papers on fraud.

Dr Ian Gibson (Lab, Norwich North) raised "the Great Yarmouth anomaly" and briefly woke MPs from their daydreaming to fathom this constitutional question when they learned that it was something to do with unscrupulous employers in East Anglia evading national insurance contributions by making wages payments in the form of lunch

cheon vouchers. Stephen Timms, a Social Security minister, seemed to be worried about the dangers to the catering industry by being too anti-luncheon voucher.

Questions went from bad to worse with interminable exchanges on the "Single Work Focus Gateway" and the "Benefits Integrity Project" which baffled most MPs.

Ms Oona King (Lab, Bethnal Green and Bow) made us jump when she asked Social Security minister Angela Eagle about "E.R.T." Thinking this was about hormone replacement therapy Nicholas Soames (Con, Mid-Sussex) looked excited but slumped back with dis-

appointment when it turned out to be about the "Habitual Residence Test".

Most MPs (and sketch writers) could not wait for this grinding tedium to end in the hope of something better to come.

But further disappointment lay in store as Paul Boateng, Home Office minister was dispatched, as the Government office boy to make a wordy, worthy but meaningless statement on a "National Strategy for Carers". Mr Boateng proceeded to repeat details already announced elsewhere by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Such is the Government's determination to seek good headlines that it recycles the same announcement in different places

at different times by different ministers. Last June Tony Blair announced plans for a National Strategy. Yesterday the "Strategy" was published. No doubt later in the year we shall have a consultation paper on the "Strategy". Next year the results of the consultation will be announced and the following year (probably election year) the "Strategy" will be finally implemented.

From Mr Boateng there was much talk of initiatives, packages, objectives and yet more "strategies" all of which would help carers.

What practical difference will be made to the unsung army of carers was still open to doubt by the end

of the afternoon. Mr Boateng rehearsed an extra £750 million which had already been announced weeks ago in the local authority financial statement. There was an extra £140 million but close listening showed that this was to be spread over three years and amounted to no more than £20 million for the forthcoming year.

He appeared irritated when Philip Hammond (Con, Runnymede & Weybridge) cast doubt on the "gap between the rhetoric and the reality". Mr Hammond worked Mr Boateng into an angry lather when he told the minister that it was "all jam tomorrow, nothing today".

The Liberal Democrat spokesman Paul Burstow (Sutton & Cheam) made generally cooling noises in favour of the announcement but suggested, rather effectively, that the sum total of the statement was worth no more than an extra 15p a week to each carer. At this Mr Boateng got seriously uppity. "Call me partisan but it would have been nice to have just a word of appreciation for the £496,000 to his local authority."

Mr Boateng should be grateful to the Liberal Democrats for their response, because I suspect that most carers will rightly be similarly ungrateful.

Ministers seek to head off benefits revolt

ALISTAIR DARLING, the Secretary of State for Social Security, last night sought to head off a backbench revolt over cuts in benefits by strongly defending the reforms which will be reinforced by a new Bill.

Social security ministers have been briefing selected groups of Labour MPs to avert a rebellion when the Government's Welfare Reform Bill is published tomorrow to establish a "single gateway" for claimants to seek work.

Mr Darling also yesterday refused to deny a report in the *Saturday Independent* that the Chancellor planned to tax child benefit for those on the higher tax rate of 40 per cent in his Budget on 9 March, but to soften the blow by raising the benefit.

Leading members of the Campaign Group of left-wing Labour MPs are ready to oppose the tax on child benefit, but those on the centre-left said last night that they would support it on the grounds that it would tax the rich to protect the poor.

The possible tax came under fierce attack by Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, who dismissed the plans as a "tax

SOCIAL SECURITY

BY COLIN BROWN AND SARAH SCHAEFER

burden on hard-working families by stealth."

But Mr Darling insisted the Bill would introduce a new culture into the benefits system.

"There is no unconditional right to benefit. We will do something to help people but in turn, they have got to do something to help themselves," he said.

Earlier, Mr Darling confirmed that ministers were looking at the abolition of benefits for convicted offenders, as "a matter of social justice".

Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory social security spokesman, dismissed the proposals as "quite a small move".

In the Commons, Mr Darling announced that Treasury ministers were taking over responsibility for national insurance contributions (NICs) policy from his own department in April. The change, combined with transferring NIC administration to the Inland Revenue, would provide a better service, help lift burdens on business and provide clear ac-

countability to MPs, he said.

But Frank Field, the former minister for welfare reform, said the "fundamental change" would practically abolish Mr Darling's department. The MP for Birkenhead said: "We are talking about half your budget and the policy decisions are now going to be determined in the Treasury."

However, in the second reading debate on the Social Security Contributions (Transfer of Functions) Bill, Mr Darling said: "Any talk of the end of the DSS is premature. What we are talking about is ensuring that those responsible for policy and operations... should be housed under one roof." He said it would simplify the distinction between policy and operations.

Iain Duncan Smith said the New Deal programme to get lone parents back to work had been a failure, with a "strike rate" of people going back into work of just over 5 per cent, at a cost of £15,000 per job. Replying Angela Eagle, Social Security minister, said 88,662 letters had been sent to lone parents up to December, 27,231 joined the scheme and 5,881 found jobs.



Andrew Smith, Employment minister, at the Graduate Fair, Olympia exhibition centre, London. Mark Chilvers

Hurd joins Lords review

ROYAL COMMISSION
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

LORD HURD, the former foreign secretary, was last night named as the second former minister to serve on the Royal Commission on Lords Reform in a move to silence the Tory critics.

Lord Hurd's presence on the Commission alongside the chairman, Lord Wakeham, the former chief whip in the Thatcher government, will make it difficult for the Conservative leadership to criticise the final report for party political bias.

Labour MPs were surprised by the inclusion in the list of Bill Morris, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, busy with management changes at the Rover Longbridge plant. Lady Dean and Gerald Kaufman, the sharp-tongued chairman of the Commons select committee on Culture, Media and Sport are the other key Labour appointments, made by Tony Blair.

Their task will be to recommend long term changes to the Lords in a report to the Government before the end of the year. The issues will include whether or not the Lords should be directly elected.

Cook to stand by officials in row over Sierra Leone

ROBIN COOK will stand by his senior officials today as they come under fierce criticism in an official report on the arms to Sierra Leone affair.

The Foreign Secretary will decide after seeing the report whether a personal statement in defence of his permanent secretary, Sir John Kerr, is necessary, officials said.

A British firm of mercenaries, Sandline International, shipped arms to the exiled government of Ahmed Tejan Kaballah in breach of a UN embargo but escaped prosecution. They claimed Foreign Office officials knew of their activities.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BY FRANK ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

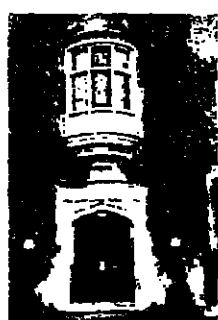
An aide to Mr Cook said he discussed the issue with Sir John yesterday at a regular meeting. On the basis of leaks about the report he felt it would be wrong for officials to be subjected to new criticism. "This inquiry does not appear to have uncovered new facts which would change the central findings of Legg. There was no cover-up, no cover-up. That's why he feels it would be unfair to officials to put them through the wringer again."

Sir John will receive the most severe criticism in the report from the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Members were angered by his refusal to answer their questions while another inquiry, by Sir Thomas Legg, was continuing. The MPs also became embroiled in a dispute with the Foreign Office last summer over access to telegrams sent by British officials who fled Sierra Leone in May 1997 after a coup. The committee's inquiry was refused permission to interview the head of M16, Sir David Spedding, and faced Foreign Office resistance over ac-

cess to official dispatches. Sir David gave evidence instead to the intelligence committee, which meets in private.

The committee's report will be far more hard-hitting than the inquiry by Sir Thomas, which reported in July. Sir John will be held largely responsible for failings in his department, though some other officials, including Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, will be treated more gently. Although he lunched with Sandline representatives, the committee felt he was not given enough support after the coup.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

People taking shorter breaks

SHORT BREAKS accounted for 53 per cent of holidays taken within the United Kingdom in 1997 and have increased by 18 per cent since 1994. Janet Anderson, the minister for tourism, said.

Jail shake-up

THE MEDICAL service at Holloway women's prison, in north London, is undergoing a shake-up after an internal inquiry found "serious shortcomings", said George Howarth, the Home Office minister.

Organic Dome

VISITORS to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich will be able to purchase food free of genetically modified products, said Janet Anderson, the minister for tourism.

Hague rejects green tax plans

WILLIAM HAGUE today will come down against the Chancellor's plans for piling higher taxes on motorists as part of a green strategy for reducing pollution and getting more people on public transport.

The Conservative leader will warn against increasing the taxes on firms, which risk losing jobs by raising taxes on company cars.

As Gordon Brown prepares to increase the taxes on motorists in his Budget on 9 March, Mr Hague will call for environmental measures including tax breaks to be introduced as part of a low taxation strategy.

The Chancellor is expected to announce a change in the way he taxes company cars from the cost of the vehicle to penalising large cars with poor fuel efficiency. He has already announced his intention of charging owners of small engines cars 150 less than the £150 car tax.

Mr Hague will tell a business environment awards ceremony: "There is a fundamental problem with green taxes. They are not what businessmen call 'win-win'. For if you

ENVIRONMENT

BY COLIN BROWN

just impose more and more green taxes, you put up costs, make Britain less competitive and destroy people's jobs and livelihoods.

"This is not what my party, or any positive blue-green agenda, should be about. I support the principle that the taxation system can be used to achieve environmental objectives, but my party and I do not and will not support environmental taxes if they are merely used as an excuse to raise the level of taxation overall."

Mr Hague is positioning the Tory Party to reap the votes of motorists and as the "motorists' friend", but it could come unstuck if the Government's wider environmental agenda proves popular. Some senior ministers believe that the public will be prepared to pay higher taxes if they are convinced it is in a good cause, such as taking traffic off roads.

Mr Hague will argue: "We should only use taxation to achieve environmental objectives as part and parcel of a low tax regime."

THE HOUSE



Patients could be in danger

PATIENTS COULD be put in danger because there is no legal requirement for doctors to be able to speak English, Lord Astor of Haver, a Tory peer claimed.

MEP's apology

TOM SPENCER, the disgraced Conservative MEP spoke of his "extraordinary foolishness" in a personal statement to the European Parliament.

Business today

Commons, 2.30pm: Questions on the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Employment Relations Bill, second reading. Lords: 2.30pm: Health Bill, second reading. Debate on university rented students' accommodation.

Thousands of young carers to get help

BY LOUISE JURY

UP TO 50,000 schoolchildren may look after elderly, sick or disabled members of their families yet many receive no support, the Government admitted yesterday. Announcing the first strategy to help Britain's estimated six million carers, the Government said young carers were potentially among "the most disadvantaged".

But the previous lack of action meant the scale of the problem was unknown. A new question in the national census in 2001 will be used to establish exactly how many children and adults are affected. In a joint statement by government ministers yesterday, Paul Boateng, Margaret Hodge, Hilary Armstrong and John Hutton promised to achieve a change in society so that the needs of people looking after elderly or disabled relatives were addressed.

More than 850,000 people are estimated to provide care for more than 50 hours a week and three-fifths receive no regular visitor support services. Existing services were "patchy", the Government admitted. The Prime Minister, in a foreword to the new strategy document, *Caring About Carers*, wrote of his own experience. "When I was a boy, I

watched my own mother care for my father after he had a stroke. Like her, there are now many people - daughters, sons, parents, relatives, friends and neighbours - who give help and support in many, many ways to those they're caring for," Mr Blair said.

Many schoolchildren have to shoulder the responsibility of caring for a relative single-handedly. Kathy Bell, 19, looked after her wheelchair-bound mother until she left home to go to university. Although her mother, Rita, tried to give her a normal life, being a carer affected her school work, her emotional health and her social life. Ms Bell said at the launch of the Government's national strategy for carers at Downing Street yesterday. "It was an emotional strain more than anything. I did the shopping, fetching and carrying, but I always felt very guilty for wishing mum would get better. It was just the lack of having a parent around the house and company in the evening that was hard. She tried to give me as normal a childhood as possible."

Ms Bell cared for her divorced mother, who was in

her early 50s, until she left her home in Cranleigh, Surrey, to study drama and English.

Then she was forced, reluctantly, to leave her mother in the care of social services. She still telephones her daily, however, and visits her every week and during the holidays.

Among the measures announced by the Government yesterday were £140m to provide respite care. Mr Boateng, who launched the inquiry into carers last June, said the aim was to provide relief for a few hours a week and also for longer periods of respite care.

He called for more carer-friendly employment measures, similar to those already introduced for working mothers and announced proposals for "personal advisers" to help carers keep in touch with the jobs market and return to work once they have finished caring.

There is also a long-term commitment to make amendments for loss of pensions contributions by adding up to £50 a week, in today's terms, to carers' pensions by 2050.

Margaret Hodge said that although young carers would benefit from some of these measures, they also had particular needs.

Many suffered problems at



John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, with Kathy Bell, one of the carers who visited Downing Street for yesterday's launch

school with completing homework and lack of time for play or sport activities.

They also feared that if they highlighted their problems they would be taken into care themselves and needed to be reassured that they could and should ask for help.

Ms Hodge said the Government wanted to provide greater

support and, with the help of teachers and GPs, identify those not currently receiving it. David Butler, of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, said the strategy provided a good basis for action. "But the real test will be whether it is implemented at local level."

Francine Bates, of the Carers' National Association, welcomed the strategy. "This is the

first time we have had a commitment by the Government to funding and services," she said. The association was concerned as to whether the money would be enough and how consistently the services would be delivered and monitored, but the principles were sound.

Margaret Coombs, of the Oxfordshire Community Care

Action Group, which lobbied Parliament yesterday over £4m of cuts to the Oxfordshire social services budget, said the financial problems councils were facing across the country made a "nonsense" of the carers' strategy.

Ms Bell said she hoped that others would get the support she had not received. In par-

ticular, she noted the idea of mentors or adults forming a link between school and home to give young carers someone to talk to. "This strategy is almost 12 years too late for me, but I hope it helps other young people caring for disabled parents," Ms Bell said.

Leading article. Review, page 3

Blair's caring, sharing family comes to aid of the party

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR backed the new carers strategy yesterday with a highly personal account of his own family's experience of support for an elderly relative.

Before he flew to Jordan for King Hussein's funeral, the Prime Minister told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that his late mother, Hazel, had spent years as a carer for his grandmother, Sally Crossenden.

"My mother looked after her mother when she developed senile dementia and all the rest of it," Mr Blair revealed.

"We never thought of ourselves as carers. My mother would have been quite surprised at being given that title. Most people in that position feel



Tony Blair with his parents, Hazel and Leo. His mother spent years caring for his grandmother

the same way about it," he said. It was only in later life, when he started considering the matter in policy terms, that

he had realised "there are millions of people out there who are carers, who have huge problems as a result".

For a man who jealously guards the privacy of his family, a stance that led him to report a newspaper to the Press Complaints Commission over a report about his daughter Kathryn's schooling, Mr Blair's remarks may come as a surprise. However, his comments about his mother are just the latest example of prime ministerial candour about the impact on his political thinking of his family background.

In his crucial Labour Party conference speech before the general election he departed from his script to relate how his father Leo's stroke had forced him to abandon his own political career.

With Mr Blair senior sitting in the front row with other members of the family, the

Labour leader moved his audience almost to tears with a description of how his character had been shaped by the illness that forced his father, a barrister, to abandon hopes of becoming a Tory MP.

"One morning I woke to be told that he had had a stroke in the middle of the night and might not live through the day, and my whole world fell apart," he said.

The Prime Minister used

his experience again last year when he launched a campaign by the Stroke Association for a better deal for sufferers. He was 10 when his father had his stroke at the age of 40. "Stroke often receives far too little attention when compared to the other big killer illnesses," he said. "I know from personal experience it is an enormous problem, which has a profound effect on people's lives."

In March 1997, Mr Blair revealed that an aunt of his wife Cherie had died from breast cancer, as he announced Labour's pledge that no woman would have to wait more than a fortnight for surgery to tackle the disease.

"I know how it can hit a family terribly," he said. "I want to ensure that the NHS will provide the best quality and most appropriate care in these circumstances."

In February 1998, Mr Blair

gave his crucial backing to the Millennium Dome with an announcement that its contents would have to pass the "Euan test" and satisfy his 13-year-old son. Dismissing the "cynics and snipers", he said: "I want today's children to take from it an experience so powerful and memories so strong that it gives them that abiding sense of purpose and unity that stays with them through the rest of their lives."

Air-rage trial told of insults by two drunken policemen

BY CLARE GARNER

IT IS NOT only the quantity of alcohol, but also the quality of in-flight movie that can trigger air rage. It seems. Two policemen on board a transatlantic flight appeared in court yesterday accused of intimidating and verbally abusing fellow passengers after consuming copious amounts of gin and whisky - and watching a screening of *The Full Monty*.

Inspector Gareth Perrett, 49, and his son, Constable Richard Perrett, 26, who both serve with the West Yorkshire force, referred to two elderly widows as "dykes" and mocked them for not watching the British hit film about male strippers, it was alleged yesterday.

One of their alleged victims, Helen Bartlett, 78, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, told Manchester Crown Court:

"They called us 'dykes' and that upset me greatly because my husband had not been dead very long... When the film came on I was not interested in it because it was *The Full Monty*, but they were laughing uproariously about the film and they started to get personal."

"They started to say, 'Why aren't these watching in front?' and 'Why aren't they having a drink?' We were immediately in front of them. One of the men had their feet across the aisles and women had step over him. One of the men remarked: 'I wouldn't mind getting her between my loins'."

Ian Metcalfe, for the prosecution, said of the defendants: "It may be that their behaviour was not assisted by the choice

of in-flight movie... Behaviour that may be just boorish can become distressing and even threatening for persons who have no choice but to be in close proximity for a considerable period of time."

Insp Perrett and his son were arrested in February last year, with their friend Peter Beck, 55, a publican, shortly after the Britannia Airways Boeing 767 touched down at Manchester airport. The three men, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, had been on a golfing holiday in Florida. Yesterday they pleaded not guilty to drunkenness on an aircraft.

Mr Metcalfe said the drinks served on the flight were not the defendants' "only source of liquor". "One passenger saw Richard Perrett in possession of a litre bottle of gin he was

handing out amongst his group." As the seven-and-a-half-hour flight went on, the three defendants' behaviour deteriorated. "They became more noisy and rowdy and their behaviour became abusive and aggressive towards other passengers who complained," Mr Metcalfe said.

The second complainant, 71-year old Betty Bailey, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, told the court the defendants had started drinking before the aircraft took off. "They were bragging and showing off... I think they were all trying to intimidate us."

The two women were eventually given new seats. The three men, who refused to surrender their passports when asked to do so by a stewardess, only quietened down after the pilot had spoken to them. The trial continues.

Council staff claim equal pay

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST union yesterday launched a campaign for equal pay on behalf of up to a million women who work for local authorities. It could cost the Government hundreds of millions of pounds.

Unison, the public service union, warned that while it wanted to close the "massive gulf" in pay by negotiation, it would also resort to court action.

After years of campaigning, employees' representatives said yesterday that women were prepared to be patient, "but they can't wait for ever".

A leading lawyer working for the union calculated that the practice of paying bonuses to employees in male-dominated occupations, but not to those where women were in the majority could cost local authorities up to a billion pounds. The union believes that some authorities could be driven into bankruptcy if they adopted the payment but they argued that the total figure could be kept down through negotiation.

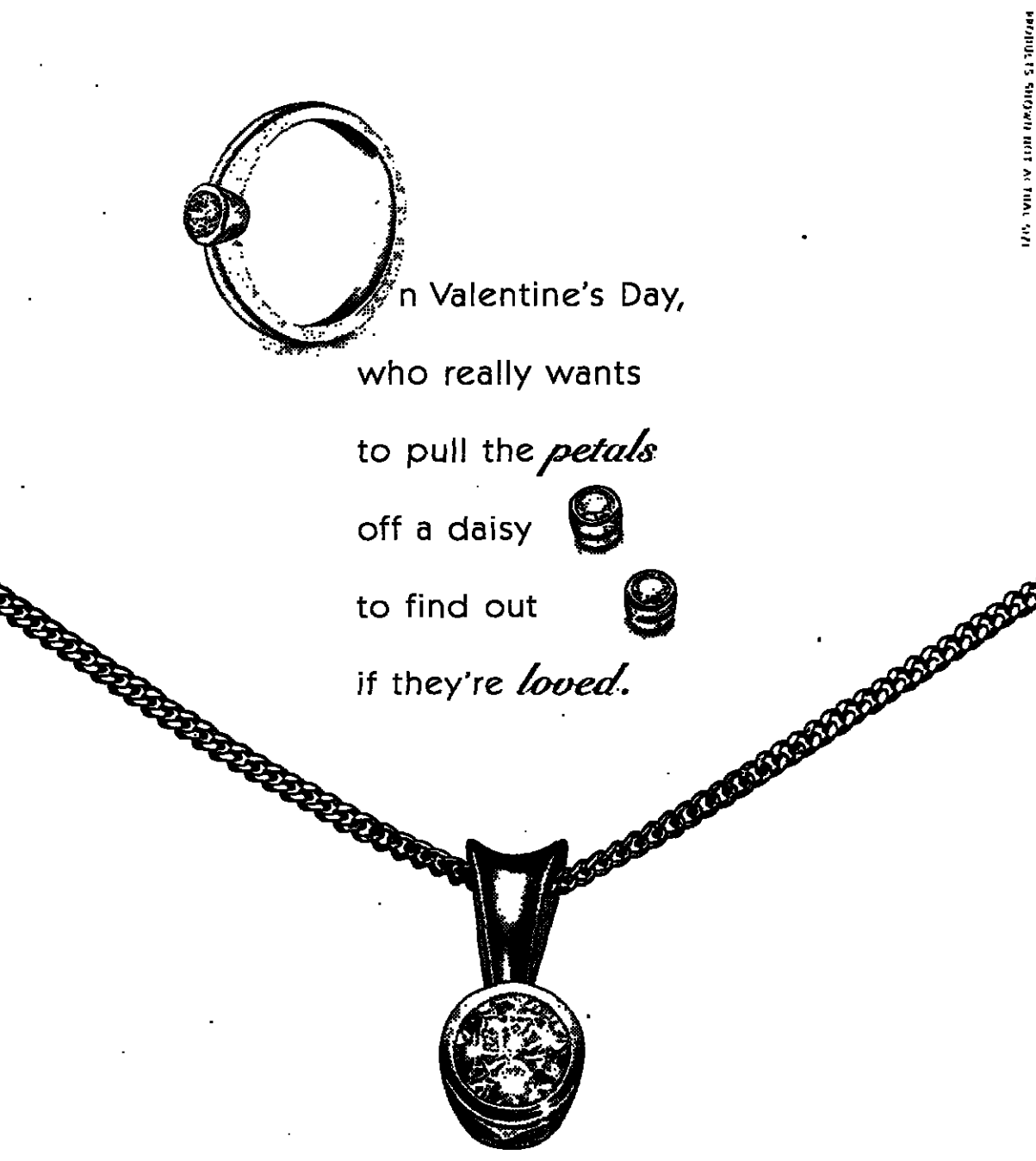
The union has recently

backed four cases on behalf of school-meals workers and nursery nurses, which cost local authorities more than £20m in compensation and back pay. There are half a dozen more cases in the pipeline and the union says there will be others unless ministers devote substantial funds to deal with the problem.

Heather Wakefield, Unison national officer, said: "We want the Government to recognise that inequality in pay is a very serious problem. Money needs to be made available to local authorities to rectify the anomaly. We would prefer to

negotiate, but the Government and local authorities should be in no doubt that ultimately we will take court action."

Local government is the single biggest employer of women in Britain - of the 1.4 million employees, nearly one million are female. Among the groups involved in the drive for equality are home-care workers, secretaries, typists, clerks, school-meals workers, nursery nurses, cleaning staff and care assistants. The union estimates that women in local authorities earn only 78 per cent of the amount paid to male colleagues.



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Ernest Jones
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AS THE solemn procession of world leaders walked past the body of King Hussein yesterday, many must have been thinking they had attended a similar ceremony 60 miles away across the Jordan river in Jerusalem just over three years ago.

It is an ominous precedent.

In 1995, it was King Hussein himself who was among the leading mourners to stand by the coffin of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli prime minister. Yesterday it was his turn to receive the same tributes to a "visionary and peace-maker".

One Jordanian said nervously that he hoped King Hussein's peaceful legacy would last longer than Mr Rabin's.

Six months after the latter's death, Israelis chose Benjamin

Netanyahu – a man Mr Rabin detested – to be premier and elected a parliament opposed to peace terms with the Palestinians that Mr Rabin had signed. People in Jordan were flattered by the sight of President Bill Clinton and three former United States leaders at their king's funeral, along with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and a host of world figures.

In the longer term, however, Jordanians have an acute sense of the vulnerability of their country. While cameras zoomed in on weeping mourners, the real mood is of anxiety about the future as much as grief for the dead monarch.

sent Palestinian control of business. They fear a further influx of Palestinian refugees, following the 350,000 expelled from Kuwait who came to Jordan in 1991. They see Palestinians with Jordanian citizenship as ungrateful and having dual loyalty to Jordan and the Palestinian leadership.

In Jordan, every change in its complicated relations with its neighbours has the potential to create a crisis between its two main population groups.

There is a further problem. Broadcasts yesterday stressed that King Hussein was much loved by his people. This is true. But the commentators forbore to mention that his popularity was at its peak in 1991 when he maintained a friendly neutrality towards President Saddam Hussein of Iraq during the Gulf War. Official policy and the popular mood were for once at one.

It could not last. Jordan was diplomatically isolated. The US president, George Bush, would not even see King Hussein. James Baker, the then secretary of state, told the monarch: "It's a tough row to hoe to repair Jordan's relationship with the United States."

In fact it was repaired more quickly than he thought. The US needed Jordan to deal with Israel and the Palestinians. King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. A year later, he broke definitively with Saddam. He felt, rightly, that he had no choice. But neither move was popular at home. The treaty with Israel was commonly called "the King's peace" and was seen as an Arab defeat

An anti-Iraqi and pro-Israeli policy abroad meant less tolerance of dissent at home. In 1989, the King had granted greater freedom of expression and more democracy. From the mid-1990s, these policies went into reverse. In the past two years, a stringent press law and government ownership of part of the media have resulted in many Jordanians turning again to foreign broadcasts for their information.

King Hussein could get away with veering between democracy and repression - mild though it was by regional standards - because Jordanians believed at heart that he knew what he was about. He was personally moderate and skilful at conciliating enemies. It is by no means clear that his son, King Abdullah, will have such leeway to conduct such an unpopular foreign policy.

Jordan sees itself as surrounded by vultures, with those from Israel and Iraq considered the most predatory. Yesterday, these powerful neighbours were on their best behaviour. But both are quick to sense political weakness and equally merciless in exploiting it.

Jordanians understand that King Hussein never had much room to manoeuvre. He ruled a small country surrounded by more powerful neighbours. When asked once why he had grown a beard, he replied: "I grew it because it's one of the few decisions I can take without having to ask somebody else if it's OK to go ahead."

His ceaseless diplomatic activity stemmed from this position of weakness. He needed to insert himself into every problem in the Middle East, win for Jordan an influence it could not command through its own strength, and prevent his country becoming the victim of events it could not control.

His dilemma was the same as that of Yasser Arafat, although the king escaped the Palestinian leader's reputation for untrustworthiness. Neither had many political cards in his hand. Both balanced uneasily between the needs of their own people and the demands of outside powers. Both switched alliances repeatedly. They cultivated the US, but tried to avoid becoming its pawn. Neither was entirely successful.

The King sought to hold the line between Arab nationalism and the need to conciliate Israel and keep the US friendly. It was ultimately a defensive policy. He needed to ensure that Jordan was not cut out of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, but not to the point where Palestinians thought he was presenting himself as their sole leader.

His ambivalent policies were not only the result of the ever-present threats facing Jordan from Israel, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia. About 60 per cent of its population is of Palestinian origin. Some years ago, an academic survey found that Palestinians resented the fact that citizens of Jordanian stock controlled most government jobs and all sensitive military and security posts. They felt under-represented and discriminated against.

Jordanians, meanwhile, re-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THOUGH THE United States had known King Hussein's days were numbered, it responded to his death with grief and some concern. Jordan has been a key player in the US-sponsored Middle East peace process; it has been a key regional ally, and any instability will endanger Israel, America's firmest ally in the Middle East.

When President Bill Clinton brought King Hussein to the Wye Plantation in Maryland for peace talks last year there was admiration for him and a belief he could apply moral pressure.

Yesterday, Mr Clinton was to meet King Abdullah, his successor, in an attempt to maintain continuity and strike a similar relationship.

But there was no doubt in Washington that, whatever his strengths, the new king would not be able to play the same role as his father.

King Hussein's personal commitment, his history of engagement on both sides of the conflict and his personal relationships with some of the key figures on the Israeli and Palestinian sides will not be matched

At the weekend, the White House issued an unusual statement saying "the United States



Berger: Hands-off warning
stands by Jordan and is determined to do all that it can to support and strengthen it." It promised to speed up aid to Amman, and asked Congress to release part of a \$300m (£187m) package.

But the White House words also contained an implicit offer of military support. Jordan is surrounded by potentially hostile neighbours - Israel, Syria and Iraq.

Sandy Berger, the President's National Security Adviser, has also made comments designed to head off any regional threat, saying that any attempt to interfere in Jordan would be a "grave mistake". However, when Jordan was threatened in 1970 by Syrian tanks, the US suggested using Israeli aircraft rather than its own to deter them.

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**Cook app
at Kosov**

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IN BRIEF
Clinton trial enters final

He lifts ban on Disney

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Scandal of Aids transfusions puts ex-ministers in the dock

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris
AND STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor



Allain: Guilty at earlier trial and facing new case

THE SCANDAL over who was to blame for supplying HIV-contaminated blood in the Eighties reopens today in a trial that could rock the French political system and will have grave implications for a Cambridge University professor.

The former Socialist prime minister Laurent Fabius and two of his ministers appear before a special court in Paris, charged with manslaughter. They are accused of bowing to commercial pressure to permit HIV-infected blood to remain in use in the French health service for five months after the danger to patients was established in 1985.

The trial is being watched closely by Jean-Pierre Allain, who is professor of transfusion medicine at Cambridge and a former honorary director of the local blood transfusion service. He has been called as a witness due to his role - and earlier conviction - for supplying HIV-contaminated blood products to French haemophiliacs.

Professor Allain, former head of research for the French blood transfusion service, may exercise his right not to appear at the trial on grounds he faces the possibility of a further case to answer the more serious allegations of poisoning patients.

Professor Allain, 56, served a two-year sentence for the lesser charge of "fraudulent description of goods", a legal nicety used to describe how he knowingly supplied untreated blood products to haemophiliacs.

The latest trial involves two ex-ministers, both retired from politics, accused of allowing the transfusion service to use old stock for haemophiliacs, even though it was known they could be contaminated with HIV. As a direct result, it is alleged, seven people were infected unnecessarily with the AIDS virus. Five have died. These are sample charges. It is estimated 350 people in France were unnecessarily infected with HIV after the first clear warnings.

The trial will be the first for half a century in which former ministers are brought to book for political decisions in office. It will be the first to be heard by the new Cour de Justice de la République, in which erring ministers are tried by judges and fellow politicians.

If convicted, the ex-ministers face up to five years' jail. Crit-

ics say the trial is another example of how far the country has lurched from a climate of immunity for politicians to a potentially equally undemocratic era of "government by judges". The blood saga, which caused profound revulsion against the political establishment, is one reason for the change.

The controversy has already produced two criminal trials of officials and doctors, four of whom were sentenced to jail for providing contaminated goods, including Professor Allain.

In another development, an investigating magistrate is expected this week to recommend that a charge of "poisoning" should be brought against Professor Allain and 16 other officials and doctors.

He has been supported by senior colleagues, including Robin Carrell, who, as head of Cambridge's haematology department, was responsible for recommending his appointment.

Professor Allain received his full professorial salary of £37,000 while in jail, which was initially paid out of NHS funds via the now-defunct East Anglian Regional Blood Transfusion Service, and then by *ex gratia* university payments.

The transfusion service, aware of the potential embarrassment of employing a senior scientist who was a convicted criminal, set up in 1985 an "independent" inquiry, led by Baroness Warnock, into Professor Allain's actions.

The inquiry, which met three times and interviewed one witness other than Professor Allain, concluded there was no reason to believe he was unfit to hold office "and that the public may be assured of his commitment to good practice". Since his release from prison, the transfusion service has refused to allow Professor Allain direct access to patients. "He is now employed by the university. He no longer is hon-



The former French prime minister Laurent Fabius, who with two ex-ministers goes on trial today over the HIV-blood scandal

orary director of the transfusion service," a spokeswoman said yesterday.

It appears one of his next appointments could be as a witness in the trial of Mr Fabius and the others.

Mr Fabius was the youngest prime minister in French history when appointed by the late President François Mitterrand in 1984 at the age of 38. It is alleged that he agreed or failed to prevent a deliberate delay in the systematic HIV testing of blood owned by the French health system from March to August 1985.

Professor Allain said he informed his superiors of the risk from contaminated blood products in January 1985 but that his warnings were ignored. France had yet to introduce heat-treated blood products, which could eliminate the risk of HIV infection, and an AIDS blood test to check donors.

An American company, Abbott, was already marketing an

HIV test but the French government came under intense lobbying pressure to refuse the American product and allow time for a French company, Diagnostec Pasteur, to develop a rival test.

The commercial implications, for sales of the test not just in France but throughout the world, are said to have been enormous.

In a statement to the National Assembly on 19 June 1985, Mr Fabius announced that all blood samples would be screened immediately.

It is alleged that the dangers were known from March and that the tests were not actually applied until August. It is alleged that Mr Fabius either condoned this delay or that he was negligent in failing to prevent it. The former prime minister, now president (speaker) of the National Assembly, says it was impossible for him to keep abreast of this level of administrative detail.

Farmers ransack Paris ministry

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

SCORES OF farmers smashed up the office of the French environment minister yesterday, throwing furniture and documents into the street and roughing up police and officials in the worst political violence seen in Paris for several years.

Another agricultural mob attacked the elite civil service college, the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), spreading manure and flour and hurling paving stones at the police. More than 200 farmers were arrested. Police said 15 would be kept in cells overnight and probably charged.

The demonstrators were protesting against planned cuts in guaranteed EU farm prices and against plans by the Environment Minister, Dominique Voynet, to tax agricultural pesticides and weed killers. Ms Voynet, leader of the French green party, is a hate figure in rural France because of her drive to implement EU-wide rules on the shooting of migratory birds.

She was away at the time but her office was laid waste and members of her staff were physically assaulted and abused. The French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, issued a statement last night condemning "this violence with the greatest possible firmness". He said the ringleaders would be prosecuted and called on farm unions, due to meet him today, to disassociate themselves from "such agitation".

The national leaderships of the unions immediately did so but the demonstrators claimed to be acting with the blessing of local branches of farming unions, and the young farmers' movement, in the cereal belt around Paris and in the western part of the Loire valley.

About 100 farmers burst into the environment ministry just before lunchtime, taking the few police guards at the gate by surprise. Hurling corn and flour, they charged to the fifth floor and ripped the door to the minister's office off its hinges. Staff were roughed up and insulted, and papers and chairs were thrown from the windows.

Cook applies pressure at Kosovo peace talks

MORE KILLINGS were reported in Kosovo yesterday as Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, prepared to return today to peace negotiations being held near Paris.

The pair, who are co-chairing the talks, aim to throw their personal weight behind a process that is showing ominous signs of settling into diplomatic trench warfare.

Last night, after a second full day of talks behind closed doors at the former royal chateau at Rambouillet, there was no sign of a breakthrough.

The Serbs and the ethnic Albanians were re-iterating old demands: Belgrade wants a public statement by the Kosovo Albanians that Yugoslavia's borders will not change; the latter seek a formal ceasefire.

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

Both requests have crucial importance. A pledge of unchanged borders would amount to recognition that the Serbian province will not become independent. A ceasefire would constitute acknowledgement by the Serbs of the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army.

As these positions were set out once more, word came of five more killings in separate parts of the troubled province which is populated mainly by ethnic Albanians. Details of the attacks were sketchy, but the suspicion was strong that the bloodshed - like a bomb which killed three people in Kosovo's capital, Pristina, on Saturday - was aimed at derailing the Rambouillet talks. British diplomats insisted

that the decision by Mr Cook and Mr Vedrine to go back to Rambouillet did not signify that the discussions had run into major problems. They predicted that enough progress would be registered by the weekend to justify extending the talks into a second week.

The Cook-Vedrine mission is likely to be followed by a visit by Madeleine Albright, United States Secretary of State, and by a ministerial meeting of the Contact Group of leading powers, to review progress.

No one is pretending that the negotiations will be anything other than fiendishly difficult. With the two sides refusing direct, face-to-face discussions, the international mediators, led by Christopher Hill, the US ambassador to Macedonia, are conducting "proximity talks",

relaying positions, demands and concessions between the two delegations.

Having studied draft peace proposals drawn up by mediators, the Serbs and Albanians are now being pressed to consider key issues, including the jurisdictional status of the province for the three years of an "interim agreement" would run, and the procedures for proposed elections of a Kosovo assembly.

Earlier, a Serb official was quoted as describing the proposals for greater Kosovo autonomy as "horrible".

Beyond that loom problems over the proposed 30,000-strong Nato peacekeeping force for Kosovo. The Serbs are opposed to such an intrusion onto its sovereign territory. But the Albanians want no less than Nato's signature on a peace deal.

IN BRIEF

Clinton trial enters final stages
THE IMPEACHMENT trial of President Bill Clinton entered its final stage yesterday with the presentation of closing arguments by both sides. The final vote on the President's guilt could be taken on Thursday - a day earlier than expected.

China lifts ban on Disney film
CHINA IS to allow cinemas to show *Mulan*, the Walt Disney film based on an ancient Chinese folk story. Peking blocked its release last year. It was angry at Disney over its 1997 movie *Kundun* about the life of the Dalai Lama.

Saddam 'wounded by assassins'
IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein was hurt during a recent assassination attempt, the United Arab Emirates newspaper, *al-Ithra*, reported yesterday. There was no further confirmation of the report.

Germany rethinks nationality plan

CHASTENED BY the revolt of Middle Germany, Gerhard Schröder's government yesterday prepared to water down its plans to ease the integration of millions of long-term immigrants.

As Social Democrats and Greens licked their wounds following their shock defeat in Sunday night's elections in the central *Land* of Hesse, leading government figures called for an urgent rethink. "We must draw the consequences from this," declared Oskar La-

fontaine, the Social Democratic party (SPD) chairman.

Politicians of every hue agreed that the Christian Democrats had defeated Hesse's red-green coalition by harnessing voters' fears of foreigners. Half a million people had protested about the new nationality law, which would have enabled about four million long-term foreign residents to obtain German citizenship.

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Sharif fights to strangle free speech

NIGHT AFTER night on the streets of Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi, men armed with sticks and iron bars fight for the freedom of Pakistan's press.

The prize: 200 rolls of newspaper, enough to bring out skeletal editions of the Jang group's newspapers. The enemy is the police. The Supreme Court granted the papers this minimal daily ration of paper; but the police, acting on orders, try to seize the lorries delivering it and drive them away. On 1 February they succeeded.

It is not too melodramatic to describe this as practically the last stand of those who cherish freedom and democracy in Pakistan. Already the other organs keeping the power of the Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, in check have been emasculated: the presidency given to a Sharif family friend, an independent-minded army chief forced to resign. Soon Pakistan's legal system will be run according to Sharia law, and Mr Sharif will be free to do as he pleases.

But the battle for the press is not over yet.

Today the drama switches to the Supreme Court, as it begins hearing an action brought against the government by Jang, alleging infringement of the freedom of the press. It is the company's attempt to fight

By PETER POPHAM in Delhi
AND ANWAR IQBAL in Islamabad

back against a government campaign to close down the newspapers that has come to a head in the past three weeks.

The head of the government's Accountability Bureau, Senator Saifur Rahman, has given the proprietor of Jang a list of 16 journalists the government wants sacked, and a list of replacements who would be considered acceptable.

But in case Jang fails to take the hint, other forms of pressure are also being applied. The editor of *The News*, Maleeha Lodhi, who was Pakistan's ambassador to Washington from 1994 to 1997, is tailed by government agents wherever she goes. Since an unidentified car tried to ram her recently, she is now escorted to and from work by colleagues in a van and two cars.

The News does not look like a newspaper which should cause a man as powerful as Mr Sharif to lose much sleep.

The page design is fussy, headlines are small and bland. Anyone expecting the strident certainties of today's British press would find articles which would not look out of place in

the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* - "Exhibition of Traditional Calligraphy", "Policemen Complain of Working Conditions ...".

But beneath its bland exterior and tireless quest for balance, *The News* has not shrunk from telling the truth about Mr Sharif, his increasingly dictatorial tendencies, and the allegations of financial wrongdoing that have been laid against him.

Last month, the confrontation came to the boil when Mr Sharif's principal enforcer, Senator Rahman, who has been pursuing charges against Benazir Bhutto and her husband, charged the company with massive tax fraud and demanded payment of more than 200 rupees (250m) in back taxes.

Jang's proprietor, Mr Shahidur Rahman, went to see the senator to try to persuade him to "stop the victimisation campaign against the press", in Mr Rahman's words, and it was at this meeting that the senator gave the proprietor the list of journalists the government required to be sacked.

Mr Rahman secretly recorded the meeting and played the tape at a press conference. On the tape the senator is clearly heard naming the journalists he wanted fired, and naming

three journalists as satisfactory replacements.

In Pakistan, where revenue collection is often used as a pretext for attacking enemies of the government, few took the tax charges against Jang seriously, even before the playing of the tape-recording of the meeting.

Mr Rahman insists, "It is not about tax dues. There are laws and courts in Pakistan to deal with the tax evader."

"We have already filed an appeal against the tax notices in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, the highest tax court in Pakistan, and we will accept its verdict."

A plausible explanation for the timing of the government's attack is that Jang was backing a satellite television channel, Geo, which is based in Dubai. While Pakistan's newspapers have been free from government control, radio and television remain a government monopoly.

Some believe that it was fear of uncontrolled news reaching the 70 per cent of Pakistanis who are functionally illiterate that spurred the government into trying to close the group down. Jang's profitable newspapers were the capital base for the satellite station's launch.



Newspaper editor Maleeha Lodhi (top right), who is at the forefront of the battle against attempts by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (bottom right) to muzzle the press. Reuters

Horseflesh and flirtation on parade

STREET LIFE
NEW DELHI

THERE IS an elusive nightclub crowd in Delhi, conspicuously rich and easily bored, that is rarely glimpsed by daylight. But I caught up with these diamond-studded youths one afternoon at the old Jaipur Polo grounds in Delhi, which turns out to be far less stuffy than you would imagine for a venue located across the road from the Prime Minister's residence and the elite Gymkhana Club.

Horseflesh and flirtation I'd expected. Thundering hoofbeats still thrill adolescent girls, and a coterie of suitors follows in their wake. India's bluebloods are also out in force. Maharajahs in the front rows, kitted out in Pashmina shawls and Italian sunglasses, clutch the arms of their wrinkled rajahs. Nearly all these erstwhile rulers wear flat wool caps, but the mixed scents of French perfume, gentlemen's cologne, and traditional attar wafting up from this section is like an invisible barrier to lesser mortals. I wonder if the pong might scare the horses.

"Samsara, yasar," shouts one teenage boy, trying to ingratiate himself with a leggy socialite by identifying her scent by name. She smiles icily, then peers with renewed interest through her binoculars while cranking up the volume on her discman.

Traditional polo is undergoing an image makeover in India, and some of the changes are startling. Recently, a liquor company hired American-style pompadour girls to cheerlead between chukkers. Unaccustomed to bare legs in public, the Indian crowd roared approval. The most popular stunt is putting fashion models astride nippy stud steeds - a change from tent-peging exhibitions at half-time.

Refreshment tents, which used to serve only pyramids of sandwiches from silver platters, now flog mini-pizzas. Cellphone companies, private television stations, investment banks and hotel firms are keen to sponsor championships or teams - once the preserve of cavalry regiments or royalty.

Today's competition is Seagrams versus Chivas Regal. Disappointingly, instead of pert cheerleaders performing cartwheels, there is only a squadron of army bagpipers tuning up in the stands. The sponsors strive to be traditional today, although the jovial crowd punctures much of this pretension.

"Down in front, Bunt: You know nothing about polo," heckles a young stockbroker as his friend tries to start a standing ovation. "We cannot see through you." Shortly afterwards, two players collide

and a rider goes down, his horse limping badly. Ambulances race out with an army doctor and the veterinarian on duty, who wears a red sari with an oversized stethoscope. As soon as play stops, a dozen vultures circle high overhead and mortality intrudes on the day out. Happily, injuries are minor and play resumes quickly.

After the first bugle sounds, Deepak Roy, a polo fan for decades, grabs a biscuit and swigs down some Earl Grey tea. "Not much of a spread today. I was hoping for giant prawns, like last week," he gripes. "And don't waste your time looking. There isn't a drop of Scotch on offer."

Indian Anglophiles occasionally whine about how crass breaks with polo tradition are, even though this Persian game of hockey on horseback has lent itself to



Polo: Startling changes

infinite innovation over 4,000 years. Elephant polo, played with oversize mallets and softer balls, is a particular local favourite - although the game's pace suffers considerably. Bicycle polo is another variation but, even with mountain bikes, is no match for the real thing.

Frenzied girls in riding gear start shoving forward to get a glimpse of Shamsheer Ali, the latest sensation in the saddle. At 16, he is the youngest and dishiest player on the circuit and when he rides by the stand there is a spontaneous swoon much like a Mexican wave. Every female sits straighter for a second, then slumps.

Moments later, a black stallion emerges, prancing to the theme from 2001: A Space Odyssey. It is not, as we all imagine, young Ali reappearing on a more suitable mount. It's a display of musical dressage for Anglophiles. "Bit of a damp squib after such a good match," Mr Roy observes, scoffing another biscuit.

JAN MCGIRK



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BUSINESS

Industry slump deepens as prices fall for first time

MANUFACTURING has entered its longest period of sustained decline since the early 1980s, according to official figures out yesterday, reigniting fears of an economy-wide recession in the first half of this year.

The latest Office for National Statistics data were far worse than expected and vindicated last week's surprise decision by the Bank of England to cut UK interest rates by 0.5 percentage points, analysts said.

As well as revealing sharp falls in manufacturing activity, the ONS figures provided further evidence of deflation in the sector. Manufacturing output prices fell in December for the first time

on record, as weak consumer demand squeezed margins.

John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman for trade and industry, warned that manufacturing was "lurching towards disaster". The Government, however, defended its economic track record, saying it was steering a course of stability through difficult times.

Ken Wattret, an economist at Paribas, said: "The official production data is belatedly catching up with business surveys, which have been screaming recession for months now".

According to the ONS, manufacturing output dropped 0.6 per cent in December, compared to expectations of a 0.2 per cent drop. Output in the sector has now fallen for five successive months, the longest period of successive monthly declines since the early 1980s.

During the last quarter of 1998, the manufacturing sector shrank by 1.3 per cent, its sharpest quarterly contraction since early 1991. This was the second consecutive quarter of manufacturing decline, the ONS said, meaning that the sector is now officially in recession.

Industrial production, which includes mining and energy production as well as manu-

facturing, fell by 0.8 per cent in December. Weakening consumer demand has hit manufacturing prices, with the sector now firmly in the grip of deflation, economists said.

In December, producer output prices fell by 0.1 per cent, the first monthly fall since records began in 1958. Manufacturing output prices remained unchanged in January, the ONS said. Input prices rose in January by 0.5 per cent following a recovery in crude oil prices.

City analysts warned the weak data were likely to prompt downward revisions to last year's official growth figures, and could mean that growth turns negative in the first quarter of 1999. Mr Wattret said: "It's quite possible we could have negative growth. The manufacturing data tells us that the problems are deep-rooted."

There were encouraging signs elsewhere in the economy yesterday, with two separate surveys providing evidence of a revival of optimism.

The British Retail Consortium survey pointed to a bounceback in retail sales in January, with like-for-like sales up 2.5 per cent as heavy discounting tempted customers back to the shops.

The apparent contradiction between yesterday's upbeat

BRIEFING

Electra wins Inchcape auction

ELECTRA FLEMING, the venture capital group at the heart of a £1.2bn takeover bid by its rival St, yesterday outbid its predator to win an auction for the shipping division of Inchcape, the vehicles distributor. Electra also beat off rival bids from Barclays and Morgan Grenfell, offering £47.5m for Inchcape Shipping Services, a group which sells support services to more than 30,000 ships a year in 46 countries. Inchcape began the auction last summer as part of its aim of focusing on its core vehicle distribution business. Electra yesterday said it planned to retain the business for at least five years.

Clementi issues euro warning

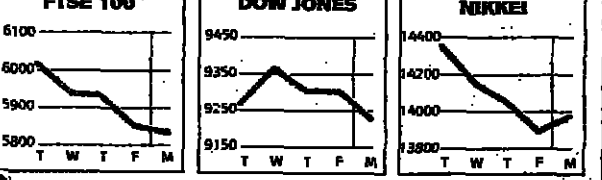
THE DEPUTY governor of the Bank of England yesterday warned the City that there was "no room for complacency" following the launch of the euro.

Speaking at a Stock Exchange awards ceremony, David Clementi (left) said that London had got off to "a flying start" in its dealings with the euro, but needed to work at staying competitive. "It is clear to us that London has no automatic right to the huge amount of business that is done here," he said. Mr Clementi was addressing the annual awards for excellence in financial reporting sponsored by the London Stock Exchange and the Institute for Chartered Accountants. Boots, the healthcare group, won the larger company award, while HP Bulmer, the cider maker, scooped the smaller company award.

£12m acquisition boosts Umeco

SHARES OF UMECO, the industrial components distributor, rose 26.5p to 320p yesterday on news of the £12m acquisition of Aerovac, which supplies vacuum bagging materials to the aerospace industry. Clive Snowden, Umeco's chief executive, said the acquisition would strengthen the group's position as a supplier to the European aerospace industry and would immediately enhance earnings.

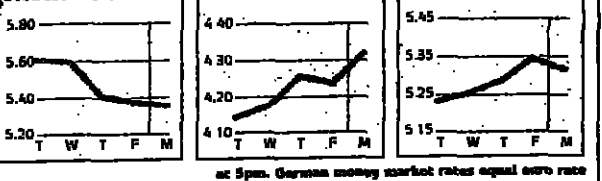
STOCK MARKETS



Don Jones Index and graph at 5pm

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5834.90	-20.40	-0.35	6195.60	4599.20	2.74
FTSE 250	5205.40	-6.10	-0.12	5370.50	4247.60	3.18
FTSE 350	2783.50	-8.20	-0.31	2959.10	2210.40	2.81
FTSE All Share	2692.85	-7.56	-0.28	2886.52	2143.53	2.85
FTSE SmallCap	2217.10	7.20	0.33	2793.80	1834.40	3.68
FTSE Pledging	1218.70	6.30	0.52	1517.10	1046.20	4.43
FTSE AIM	836.90	4.70	0.57	1146.90	761.30	1.19
FTSE Europe 100	2741.35	-16.09	-0.58	3079.27	2018.15	2.15
FTSE Europe 300	1197.21	-7.21	-0.60	1352.07	880.65	2.01
Dow Jones	9241.96	-67.45	-0.73	9647.96	7400.30	1.66
Nikkei	13952.49	94.41	0.68	17352.35	12787.90	1.04
Hang Seng	9139.60	-50.60	-0.55	11926.16	6544.79	3.85
Dax	5027.22	-59.57	-1.09	6217.83	3833.71	1.71
S&P 500	1236.31	-3.72	-0.30	1283.64	923.32	1.28
Nasdaq	2378.79	2.74	0.12	2533.44	1357.09	0.29
Toronto 300	6580.50	-54.17	-0.82	7837.70	5320.90	1.61
Brazil Bovespa	8483.53	40.25	0.48	12339.14	4575.69	7.48
Belgium Sel20	3446.17	-28.39	-0.82	3713.21	2613.32	2.06
Amsterdam Eux	528.24	-6.12	-1.15	600.62	366.56	1.86
France CAC 40	4154.02	6.72	0.16	4404.94	2881.21	1.94
Milan MIB30	33328.00	-616.00	-1.82	39170.00	24175.00	1.23
Madrid Ibes 35	9648.80	-160.50	-1.64	10989.80	6869.90	1.93
Irish Overall	5198.28	-18.43	-0.35	5581.70	3732.57	1.54
S Korea Comp	0.00	-6.01	-1.09	691.95	277.37	0.07
Australia ASX	2900.00	-11.50	-0.41	2948.70	2306.70	3.17

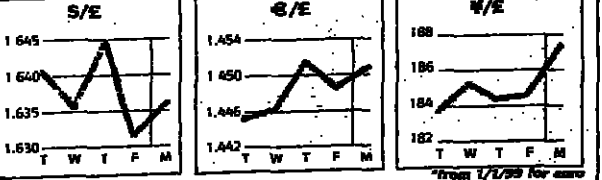
INTEREST RATES



at 5pm. Overnight money market rates against euro rates

Money Market Rates	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	10 year	30 year
UK	5.54	-0.02	5.32	-2.17	0.00	-1.77	-1.76
US	5.00	-0.69	5.19	-0.47	4.91	0.73	0.62
Japan	0.46	-0.38	0.48	-0.35	0.00	0.25	0.00
Germany	3.11	-0.41	3.04	-0.76	0.00	-1.25	-0.91

CURRENCIES



from 1/1/99 for S/E

Other Indicators	Close	Chg	Vol	Age
Brent Oil (\$)	10.03	0.00	14.74	
Gold (\$)	289.45	1.00		
Silver (\$)	5.58	-0.02	7.81	

TOURIST RATES

Tourist Rates	Rate	Change
Australia (\$)	2.4231	
Austria (schillings)	19.41	
Belgium (francs)	57.07	
Canada (\$)	2.3719	
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8173	
Denmark (kroner)	10.56	
Finland (markka)	8.4244	
France (francs)	9.2750	
Germany (marks)	2.7751	
Greece (drachma)	455.46	
Hong Kong (\$)	12.29	
Ireland (pounds)	1.1111	
India (rupees)	62.45	
Israel (shekels)	6.1767	
Italy (lira)	2749	
Japan (yen)	182.10	
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9012	
Malta (lira)	0.6117	
Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.98	
Netherlands (guilders)	3.1112	
New Zealand (\$)	2.8123	
Norway (kroner)	12.27	
Portugal (escudos)	281.80	
Portugal (euros)	5.9604	
Saudi Arabia (rials)	2.6394	
Singapore (\$)	3.3723	
South Africa (rand)	254.91	
Spain (pesetas)	12.59	
Sweden (kronor)	54.42	
Switzerland (francs)	2.2688	
Thailand (bahts)	53.680	
Turkey (liras)	1.5979	
USA (\$)		



David Michels (left), chief executive of Stakis, with Peter George, the chief executive of Ladbroke

Ladbroke buys Stakis chain for £1.2bn

LADBROKE, THE hotels and gaming group, yesterday moved quickly to complete its bid for Stakis, the Glasgow-based hotels chain, with a recommended cash and share offer valuing the group at £1.16bn.

The deal, which comes just five days after talks were first disclosed, sparked a surge in both companies' share prices with Stakis shares soaring 11 per cent to 157p.

This is well in excess of the 144.25p offer price indicating the possibility of a rival offer from another leisure group such as Whitbread or Accor of France. However, Ladbroke said the

being 'lying if I said he'd done so without a tear in his eye,' said Stakis' chief executive David Michels who helped restore the group's fortunes after its near collapse seven years ago. He added: "I suppose it's a bit like watching your mother-in-law drive off a cliff in your new car".

The deal takes Ladbroke from 38 hotels to 93 and makes the combined group the largest operator of four star hotels in the country and the third largest hotels group in London after Granada and Thistle. It also creates the UK's second largest gaming group after Rank with Ladbroke's five London casinos

added to Stakis' portfolio of 22, mostly provincial sites. "It is rare to find a business that represents such a perfect operational mix and complementary geographic fit," said Peter George, Ladbroke's chief executive.

The deal sees Mr Michels elevated to Ladbroke's main board and appointed head of its enlarged Hilton hotels division. He will replace David Jarvis who could be in line for a £1m pay-off. However, Mr George denied that the Stakis man is being groomed as his successor.

The deal nets a £1.5m shares and options windfall for Mr Michels, although he will take 60 per cent of the proceeds in Ladbroke shares. Stakis staff, who own around 3 per cent of the company will net over £30m between them.

The takeover will result in annual cost savings of £16m from next year. There will be job losses, with the Stakis head office in Glasgow moved to Watford and the likely closure of overlapping divisions of hotels. However, Mr Michels said the company will maintain a presence north of the border.

The terms of the Ladbroke offer are 57.7p in cash plus 0.882 new Ladbroke shares for each Stakis share held.

Hedge fund founder's buy-back plan rejected

INVESTORS HAVE rejected attempts by John Meriwether, the founder of Long-Term Capital Management to buy back the hedge fund from the consortium which bailed the troubled firm out at the height of the financial crisis last September.

Mr Meriwether, a former Salomon Brothers trader, whose attempts to beat the market rattled the world financial system last year, has spent the recent weeks touring investors and lenders worldwide in an effort to drum up interest for a bid to buy back the fund.

Britain's Barclays Bank is among the 14 banks which participated in last September's bailout that would be keen to sell it an opportunity to get out at a profit presented itself.

Lehman Brothers and Banker Trust, the US bank currently in the throes of a merger with Germany's Deutsche Bank are also rumoured to be pressing for an early exit. Members of the oversight committee, made up of six of the 14 banks that participated in the buyout, met in New York last week to discuss plans for the fund's future.

Options include accelerating the process of liquidating the fund's holdings with a view of repaying some of the consortium's investments, or looking for a buyer for the fund's assets.

Mr Meriwether was left with a three per cent holding in the fund after the bailout and has made little secret of his desire to buy it back again.

Since the bailout, with the help of the strong rebound in the confidence of the major financial market, the assets in

the fund have appreciated by 15 per cent. However, investors say that they are still far from ready to put their trust in a man whom they hold responsible for the initial collapse.

"He seems to think he has just taken a loan and now the markets have recovered he can pay it back," said one cynical observer. "But I think his rehabilitation will take somewhat longer."

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

A LACKLUSTRE session, with New York failing to offer inspiration, left Footsie trailing 30.4 points to 5,834.9 with turnover again topping 1 billion shares. The mid cap index fell but the small cap managed a 7.3 gain to 2,217.1. Even BT's link with Microsoft failed to generate much excitement with BT up 7.5p to 93p. Reuters, the information group, rose 47.5p to 86p ahead of figures due today. As utilities returned to favour, Thames Water rose 42p to 1,099p. Banks weakened ahead of results.

Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

CONCERNS about over-valuation hit sentiment on Wall Street, where shares were modestly lower in afternoon trade. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 46.33 points - or 0.44 per cent - at 9263.31. Traders said losses were triggered by a warning from Ralph Acampora, analyst at Prudential Securities, of a 5 to 10 per cent decline in the Dow. Drug stocks were among the fallers, with Eli Lilly and Merck both hit by valuation concerns.

TOKYO

THE BENCHMARK Nikkei index closed higher for the first time in five sessions, as a recovery in the bond market boosted sentiment in equities. The Nikkei closed up 94.41 points - or 0.68 per cent - at 13,992.49.

March futures added 220 points to close at 14,010.

Yasuo Ueki, general manager at Nikko Securities Co, said: "The surge in bond prices relieved the market after their tumble kept pulling down the Nikkei average last week."

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAN shares ended sharply lower as a easing of exchange controls prompted a wave of foreign selling. The benchmark stock exchange index closed down 5.85 per cent at 526.1, after the government announced it would replace a ban on the repatriation of short-term foreign capital with a graduated "exit tax". One trader said: "Foreigners have no reason to hold. It [the exit tax] gives them a wonderful opportunity to sell."

Report, page 15

SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN shares were trading higher in afternoon trade after a further depreciation of the real made stocks cheaper in dollar terms. The benchmark Bovespa index was up 287.28 points - or 3.17 per cent - at 8702.76. A major options expiry also boosted the share index, traders said.

However, analysts warned that the longer term outlook for Brazilian shares was more mixed amid concerns that support for the government's austerity plan was slipping.

Microsoft and BT form Net force

News Analysis: Bill Gates's giant has joined up with British Telecom to test software which allows Internet access for mobile-phone users

MICROSOFT HAS joined forces with British Telecom to test software which will allow mobile phone users to access the Internet while they are on the move.

The alliance, which was formally announced at an industry conference in New Orleans last night, is the latest in a recent flurry of partnerships between British companies and the United States software giant. It underlines Microsoft's recognition of the UK as a market leader in developing and introducing new technologies.

Microsoft is giving BT the exclusive right to test its microbrowser software, which allows users to browse the Internet from mobile phones and other portable electronics devices, outside the United States. Trials are expected to begin almost immediately, and BT is likely to start offering the software to major corporate customers through its Concert venture next year.

BT has investments in a handful of mobile networks around Europe and in the Far East, allowing it to reach a large number of international customers.

The alliance reflects a growing belief that mobile phone networks will be used by workers to access their company's computer networks and the Internet. "We think the mobile phone will become more a device for voice communications," says Sohail Qaid, BT's director of mobile strategy. "The convergence between Internet and mobile will happen."

Although Microsoft has a stronghold on the desktop computer market through its Windows operating system, the company is increasingly concerned about the challenge to its dominance from rival devices such as mobile phones, hand-

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

held computers and television set-top boxes.

"Microsoft is committed to deploying Internet standards-based services, and, by working with partners, to provide a worldwide, end-to-end wireless solution," said Microsoft vice-president Paul Maritz.

Microsoft has developed a stripped-down version of Windows, called Windows CE, to run on these devices, but other companies have been quicker to take the lead in those markets.

Just as Netscape established an early lead over Microsoft in developing an Internet browser, so NCI - a joint venture between Netscape and Oracle - has raced ahead in providing operating systems for television set-top boxes. All three of Britain's cable operators have signed up NCI for their digital television systems.

Meanwhile Psion, the British handheld computer maker, has already linked up with mobile phone manufacturers Motorola, Ericsson and Nokia to develop an operating system for mobile Internet access. Indeed yesterday's announcement, which is a direct challenge to Symbian, knocked Psion shares 52.5p to 876p.

According to industry analysts, the creation of Symbian left Microsoft with little choice but to court telecom operators with its software, although they added that ultimately consumers would decide which operating system they preferred.

The alliance with BT marks the latest in a number of ventures between Microsoft and British companies. Even as Microsoft has been battling against an antitrust lawsuit in the US, it has been pouring cash into a number of strategic investments which suggest the



Bill Gates (left), head of Microsoft, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom: the two companies are joining forces in a venture which gives BT exclusive rights to test the computer giant's microbrowser software

UK is more important as a market than is justified by its size relative to other countries.

Two weeks ago, Microsoft invested \$500m in NTL, the country's third-largest cable operator. Last year Computer Center and ICL, the computer services groups, both signed strategic partnerships to develop software and services based on Microsoft's operating system.

Meanwhile WebTV, the Microsoft subsidiary which has developed an operating system for television set-top boxes, is currently trialling its system in a number of London homes in conjunction with BT and the BBC.

Microsoft is also sinking

\$50m into a research centre in Cambridge, and has contributed £10m to Amadeus, a fund for budding hi-tech companies run by Hermann Hauser, the venture capitalist.

Andrew Lees, a director of Microsoft UK, said the British market is attractive because it is innovative. He pointed to the deregulation of the telecom and media industries which had put British companies at the cutting edge of developments in their technologies.

For example, Britain was one of the first countries in the world to launch digital television. And if the UK government sticks to its self-appointed schedule, Britain will also be the one of the first to introduce the

new generation of mobile phone networks which are capable of carrying data at high speed.

However, BT and Microsoft yesterday played down suggestions that the two might mount a joint bid for one of the licences. Although BT is keen to bid, probably through Cellnet, the mobile phone operator in which it holds a 60 per cent stake - Microsoft said it was not particularly keen to put cash into mobile phone infrastructure.

Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, has also publicly backed Tony Blair's call to create a National Grid for Learning by linking all the schools in the country to the Internet.

By getting involved in these technologies in the UK, Mi-

crosoft is putting itself in a prime position to benefit when they are adopted elsewhere. "This competition is going to create a lot of innovation which will spread around the globe," says Andrew Lees, a director of Microsoft's UK subsidiary.

Critics suggest that Microsoft is stifling innovation by buying into a variety of different companies. However, Mr Lees insists Microsoft's strategy of partnership is designed to create the opposite. "Our business model is to create value and innovation in a solution of which we are part," he says.

Industry analysts point out that Microsoft is effectively using its financial muscle to make sure it is involved in any

MICROSOFT IN THE UK

- 1999**
February: Global agreement with BT to develop and deploy a range of internet, intranet and corporate data services for mobile customers
- January:** \$500m investment in NTL
- 1998**
November: Partnership with cable firm NTL to develop TV-based interactive services
- October:** Computacenter strategic alliance
- June:** WebTV content deal with BBC
- May:** Global strategic alliance with ICL
- March:** WebTV trials with BT
- 1997**
June: Invests £50m to set up Cambridge Research Centre and £10m in a venture capital fund for hi-tech start-ups

Zeneca to sue US drug monitor

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ZENECA, THE pharmaceutical giant, is taking the US drug watchdog to court over the approval of a rival version of one of its best-selling medicines, it emerged yesterday.

The British company took the highly unusual step of suing the US Food and Drug Administration over its decision to allow Genista Sior, a small American firm, to produce a cheaper version of its anaesthetic Diprivan.

In a lawsuit filed in the US state of Maryland, Zeneca alleged that the FDA breached an exclusivity agreement and demanded a withdrawal of Genista's licence.

The little-known US company last month won approval to produce a medicine which uses Diprivan's key ingredient in combination with other substances not contained in the Zeneca product.

The Genista drug is to be launched later this year and is expected to cost less than Diprivan, an injectable anaesthetic sold to hospitals.

Industry experts believe that it could become a powerful competitor to Diprivan, which last year had sales of \$300m in the US and \$600m worldwide. However, the UK group, which is completing its multi-billion pound merger with Sweden's Astra, is claiming that the Genista product breaches a previous agreement with the FDA.

According to Zeneca, the deal gives it exclusive rights over the sale of Diprivan and similar products until June of this year.

The British company is also alleging that Genista's formulation of the drug could be harmful for patients.

Genista said it had applied to intervene in the lawsuit between Zeneca and the FDA and added that it would "vigorously protect" its interests.

Inflation in euroland to fall

THE SINGLE currency could cut euroland's inflation rate by a quarter of a point as greater transparency and competition force prices downwards, according to new research.

But the EU's statistics office will not publish figures which allow direct comparisons of prices for different goods across member countries.

It is due to release 1996 figures at the end of this month but reports prices in one country as a ratio of the average. This will reveal whether prices are moving closer together but

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

not whether they are converging upwards or downwards. The Commission will be monitoring the unpublished data. It is running a "rounding down" campaign to encourage retailers not to exploit confusion caused by the launch of the euro to push through price rises.

The new report, published today by ING Barings, the City investment bank, predicts that as long as the single currency leads to a levelling down of

prices towards the lowest prevailing, it could reduce the inflation rate by 0.25 per cent a year. This would represent a significant fall from today's already low euroland inflation rate of 0.8 per cent.

According to Mark Cliffe, the author of the report: "The potential significance of price convergence is underlined by the sheer scale of the price differentials." He noted that the European Commission has always seen cheaper prices to consumers as one of the key benefits of monetary union.

Davies moves in stately style

LIZ DAVIES has joined Birchin International as managing director in charge of styling, to spruce up the AIM-listed company's three stately homes which have been converted to conference centres.

Ms Davies was the creative force behind the 1980s fashion icon Next which she founded with her former husband George Davies. In 1992 she moved to Mothercare to work with Ann Iversen, and was expected by the industry to follow Ms Iversen to Laura Ashley.

Perhaps wisely, she didn't, and instead founded her own retail design consultancy, working for the likes of Tesco and Sainsbury.

Now Ms Davies's job is to "bring some coherence" to Birchin's three country houses - Eyensham Hall in Yorkshire, Chewton Place in Oxfordshire and Swinton Castle in Bristol.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



Sir Reo still receives a £240,000 pension from Stakis as life president.

As for Sir Reo's changing the eating habits of the Glaswegians, George Westwell, general manager of the London Metropole, explained last October: "He taught them to use a knife and fork."

Call to action

A CITY lawyer who played rugby for Cambridge, championed the boxer Lennox Lewis and represented 250 depositors in BCCI who were owed \$2m, is setting up on his own.

Bernard Clarke is leaving City law firm Memory Crystal to launch his own practice dealing in commercial litigation and insolvency.

The former rugby Blue who played open side flanker for Cambridge says now is the time to take advantage of huge changes in the way civil law is run in this country.

"Lord Woolf's reforms mean an end to 'trench warfare' in civil litigation," proclaims Mr Clarke.

There is a sea-change which most solicitors have failed to grasp. Cases will be streamlined and judges will have a role in administering them. The age of litigants exchanging brickbats for years and years is over.

Mr Clarke is setting up on a "greenfield site" and is "hiring lots of young lawyers who haven't been ingrained with the past," he says.

His firm, Bernard Clarke & Co, will take advantage of last year's rule changes which allow lawyers to take cases on a conditional fee basis. It will also spearhead litigation cost insurance, an intriguing development which enables litigants to insure against the possible costs of losing their case, even after they have launched the action.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

Change to Interest Rates

With effect from the start of business on 9th February 1999 the following Business Cheque, Deposit and Lending rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	OLD AER %	OLD GROSS %	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %	NEW NET %
Business Investment Account - paid monthly					
30 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.75	4.65	4.23	4.15	3.32
£100,000-249,999	4.70	4.60	4.18	4.10	3.28
£25,000-99,999	4.44	4.35	3.92	3.85	3.08
£10,000-24,999	3.92	3.85	3.40	3.35	2.68
£1-9,999	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.40
Premier Interest Account - paid monthly					
14 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.65	4.55	4.13	4.05	3.24
£100,000-249,999	4.44	4.35	3.92	3.85	3.08
£25,000-99,999	4.18	4.10	3.66	3.60	2.88
£10,000-24,999	3.76	3.70	3.25	3.20	2.56
£1-9,999	2.53	2.50	2.02	2.00	1.60
Business Call Account - paid monthly					
£250,000+	3.09	3.05	2.58	2.55	2.04
£50,000-249,999	2.89	2.85	2.38	2.35	1.88
£10,000-49,999	2.53	2.50	2.02	2.00	1.60
£1,000-9,999	2.22	2.20	1.71	1.70	1.36
£1-999	1.97	1.95	1.46	1.45	1.16
Practice Call Account - paid quarterly					
£1+	4.11	4.05	3.55	3.50	2.80
Designated Clients Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	3.96	3.90	3.44	3.40	2.72
£50,000-99,999	3.96	3.90	3.29	3.25	2.60
£10,000-49,999	3.60	3.55	2.93	2.90	2.32
£2,000-9,999	2.68	2.65	2.17	2.15	1.72
£1-1,999	0.85	0.85	0.35	0.35	0.28
Schools Banking Account - paid quarterly					
£1+	3.85	3.80	3.29	3.25	2.60
Capital Reserve Account - paid quarterly					
7 day notice account					
£250,000+	4.63	4.55	4.11	4.05	3.24
£100,000-249,999	4.42	4.35	3.91	3.85	3.08
£50,000-99,999	4.16	4.10	3.65	3.60	2.88
£10,000-49,999	3.75	3.70	3.24	3.20	2.56
£1-9,999	3.24	3.20	2.63	2.60	2.08
Business Interest Cheque Account - paid quarterly					
£250,000+	2.37	2.35	1.86	1.85	1.48
£100,000-249,999	1.91	1.90	1.41	1.40	1.12
£50,000-99,999	1.46	1.45	0.95	0.95	0.76
£25,000-49,999	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.40
£10,000-24,999	1.00	1.00	0.40	0.40	0.32
£2,000-9,999	0.75	0.75	0.25	0.25	0.20
£1-1,999	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.20
BICA for Charities - paid quarterly					
£1+	2.37	2.35	1.86	1.85	1.48
Flexible Business Loans					
Standard					11.40
Special					9.24
Preferential					8.76
Business Overdraft					
Managed A					11.04
Managed B					9.96
Managed C					8.88
Managed D					8.40

TSB

Interest rates may vary from time to time. All rates are per annum except where stated compounded on an annual basis. As every deposit for a savings product will contain an AER you will be able to compare more easily what return you can expect from your savings over time.

**GROSS - Gross rate is the contractual rate of interest payable before the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law.

***NET - The rate of interest which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law. Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account holder qualifies to receive interest gross. (These products are no longer open to new customers.)

*For charities with turnover under £100,000 p.a. **For charities with turnover over £100,000 p.a.

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Stakis farewell

NO WONDER Sir Reo Stakis, 85, wiped away a tear as he announced the takeover by Ladbroke. The hotel and casino group he founded in 1946 is set to be swallowed by Ladbroke's Hilton subsidiary. Suggested new names include "Lakis" and "Stilton".

Sir Reo arrived in Britain from his native Cyprus in 1928, aged just 15, with £50 and two suitcases full of lace.

His big break came in Glasgow in 1952 when he bought his first restaurant. Shortly afterwards he opened his first steakhouse. This is when the legend that he "singlehandedly changed Scotland's eating habits" was born.

He went on to open Glasgow's first nightclub and Scotland's first casino.

But hubris struck in the 1980s - as with so many other entrepreneurs. Sir Reo made his son Andros Stakis chief executive, and the lad embarked on an ambitious expansion into commercial property, pubs, discos and nursing homes.

When the crash came in 1990 Stakis almost went bust. Sir Reo stepped aside as chairman in March 1991 in favour of Sir Lewis Robertson, a company doctor. Sir Lewis's first act was to replace Andros with David Michels from Hilton, who became his right-hand man. They proceeded to sell off the 1980s acquisitions and Stakis recovered, growing from a value of £70m in 1992 to £1.2bn today.

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Stock market

Greece

Independent and great value travel Scandinavia with city Helsinki or Tallinn. Save your hotel!

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THE INDEPENDENT

Stock market fails smaller companies

JUST three short years into life at the head of a publicly quoted company, Peter Presland, chief executive of Rebus Group, an IT company specialising in the insurance sector, has had enough and is selling out to venture capitalists. Rebus is only the latest in a growing number of so-called "public to private" transactions, and as such it is symptomatic of the deep disillusionment many smaller companies have begun to feel with the stock market.



OUTLOOK

In recent years there has been a growing polarisation in the quoted sector between big and small companies, and between perceived sunset and sunrise sectors. If your company happens to be a small or medium sized enterprise in an out of favour sector, then your chances of using the equity markets to fund expansion at a reasonable rate are virtually nil. Plainly it is much worse than this, however. Rebus is in a glamorous sector, IT, but it is also small so it is still being afforded a stock market rating so low that its advisers cannot recommend use of equity to fund growth.

What's the point of being subjected to the disciplines of a publicly quoted company, many managements are asking themselves, if we cannot avail ourselves of the benefits of the capital markets? This sort of question is now being posed with such regularity by smaller companies that it is no longer possible to write these complaints off as the whinging of under-performing executives.

strategy within the company, which tends to mean it can never break free of whichever narrow business perspective it is locked into.

In such circumstances, the attractions of venture capital are obvious. Ironically, most buyout capital comes from the very institutions that in their stock market dealings are applying these short termist pressures; there is, however, a small part of each portfolio which is allocated to longer term, more illiquid investment.

As a consequence, there is a certain amount of robbing Peter to pay Paul going on here. In the past, the big institutions were reluctant to accept venture capital bids on the grounds that any company buying itself must be worth more than it is paying. In the last year or two that perception has changed. The under-performance of smaller company shares has made many keen to sell at almost any price, further depressing the value of these companies.

For big institutions with an interest in the venture capital industry, the process is a zero sum game, since they can expect a share of the higher returns these companies might earn as privately owned entities. The venture capitalist also has the

opportunity much more effectively to bring about consolidation and management change than would have been possible in the quoted sector.

Unfortunately, this is a process in which the retail investor can rarely participate. All too often small private investors are being forced out at an undervaluation. Later, on the other hand, they are asked to participate in the inflated valuations at which these companies return to the stock market. The capital markets are not meant to work in this discriminatory and unfair manner.

Recession blues

THE TREASURY is doing its best to convey an impression of calm about the economy even as the pundits veer from euphoria about last week's surprisingly big cut in interest rates to panic about the figures yesterday confirming that manufacturing is in recession for the first time since the early 1990s. Knowing in advance that yesterday's news would be bad, the Treasury had indicated to the Sunday newspapers that the Chancellor saw no need yet to reduce his forecast of 1-1.5 per cent growth.

On the other hand, the forecast contained in November's pre-Budget report, based on data for September and October, is at the most optimistic end of the range. The economy would have to turn on a sixpence in April for it to come true. While Mr Brown may be a cheerful and upbeat fellow, he has no business basing his Budget on extreme optimism.

On the other hand, the last thing the Chancellor needs in the run up to a Budget that will confirm his determination to set a steady fiscal course is the demand from his colleagues to do something about a non-existent recession.

The signs are that the Bank of England will manage to keep it at bay for him. Indeed, the latest grim news from manufacturing could point to a

bigger and faster fall in interest rates than most analysts expect. And if that does the trick, the economy could be starting to build up steam by the time the Chancellor is drawing up next year's Budget.

Longbridge aid

IT WAS the turn of Stephen Byers yesterday to make the pilgrimage to Longbridge. These days Trade and Industry Secretaries seem regularly to go there to pray for salvation. Before his sudden fall from grace, Peter Mandelson made the trip up the M1 to beseech the Rover workforce to "sharpen up their act". His successor was there yesterday on a "fact finding" mission.

If there was one fact Mr Byers must already have known it is the statistic showing that Longbridge produces 33 cars per man each year compared with 96 at Nissan's Sunderland factory. Even with their better paid workers and expensive labour laws BMW's German plants are 30 per cent more efficient.

The new man in the BMW hot seat, Joachim Milberg, has given himself a fortnight to digest the information and decide whether to throw

good money after bad and invest another £1bn in a replacement for the Rover 200/400 series.

Mr Byers has £300m of taxpayers' money in his pocket to help Mr Milberg make up his mind. In a same world, all state aid for car plants would be outlawed on the grounds that it distorts competition and encourages uneconomic production.

But sanity is not always the strong suit of governments. There are plenty of other countries that would be a good deal more generous than Mr Byers in attempting to attract the investment for the 200/400 series.

Moreover, state aid can sometimes be a necessary pump primer. Nissan's Sunderland plant was a big recipient while the renaissance at Jaguar would not have been possible had central government not oiled the wheels. The clincher for both Nissan and Jaguar, however, is that they both had new models that people were eager to buy. Whether the same can be said about Rover is less certain. Given its track record with passenger cars and its surplus of capacity to output, the omens do not look good for Longbridge, no matter how much state aid is waved in BMW's direction.

Scotia sells 'wonderfood' to US

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the loss-making Scots pharmaceuticals group, yesterday gave hope to millions of food junkies with the sale of a revolutionary anti-appetite ingredient to the US cereal giant General Mills.

The American company bought the worldwide rights to use Olibra - a substance that makes people feel full after a few spoonfuls - in its breakfast cereals, which include the best-selling Cheerios and Kix. General Mills will also be allowed to sell Olibra-enhanced yoghurt, soups and salad dressings in North and South America.

News of the deal with the US company, the world's largest producer of cereals, sent shares in Scotia soaring.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The stock - which has slumped in recent times as Scotia was hit by drugs setbacks and boardroom rows - closed 42 per cent higher at 98.5p. Analysts said the tie-up with General Mills, which has yearly sales of \$7bn and a market value of \$13bn, was a vote of confidence in the product.

"It's a good deal, the choice of General Mills is a good endorsement of Olibra and it is in the American market, which is by far the largest in the world," said Nick Woolf, the vice-president of BancBoston Robertson Stephens, the US financial house.

Olibra is a fat-based ingredient derived from palm and oat oil which appears to reduce appetite, helping people to lose weight. It is already used in the Swedish yoghurt Maval, sold in some UK supermarkets, and in some St Ivel desserts produced by the dairy group Unigate.

Scotia declined to spell out the financial terms of the deal, but it is understood that General Mills will pay the Stirling-based group a number of milestone payments during further product developments and a royalty of around 8 per cent on sales of Olibra products. The US group will also pay for the development and marketing of Olibra food. The first products are not expected to hit the market before 2001, as Olibra

will have to be approved by the US regulatory authorities.

Dr Robert Dow, the chief executive of Scotia, said that the potential market for appetite suppressants was immense. He added that Olibra could be used in virtually every solid food, soup and milk-based drink. The worldwide market for cereals, soups and salad dressings was over \$74bn last year, with almost \$20bn spent in the US alone.

Dr Dow said the General Mills deal would help Scotia to move into profit over the next five years. He added that the deal should help the group to speed up manufacturing agreements with Asian and European partners.



Scotia's chief executive, Dr Robert Dow, who says the potential market for Olibra is huge. Mark Chivers

Foreign cash flies out of Malaysia

THE MALAYSIAN central bank was forced to set up a telephone hotline yesterday to deal with the rush of foreign investors trying to withdraw their funds, writes Diane Coyle.

The move followed Malaysia's recent lifting of a six-month ban on capital flows, to be replaced next week by a tax of up to 30 per cent on funds moved out of the country.

The flight of newly released money sent Malaysian shares tumbling 5.85 per cent in heavy trading. The fall dragged other stockmarkets in Asia lower too, with falls in Seoul, Bangkok, Jakarta and Hong Kong.

The switch from overt capital controls to a tax on movements of funds out of the country of up to 30 per cent - less on longer-term investments - was intended to encourage foreign investment, but backfired as those trapped by earlier restrictions made for the exit.

Although the recurrent financial crises of the past two years had persuaded a number of prominent economists that capital controls could be a useful policy in emerging markets, Malaysia was the only affected country to try them.

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SPORT

Racing: Trainer's pursuit of perfection and attention to detail can add to the legend of Ballydoyle



Aidan O'Brien with Istabraq in the yard at Ballydoyle yesterday. O'Brien says his seven-year-old 'can cruise at 40mph on the bridle doing a half speed. That's unbelievable' Caroline Norris

O'Brien masters mysterious art

THEY CALL one of the mountains above the Ballydoyle training centre Slievenamon and legend has it that an ancient Irish king would choose as his bride the first woman to reach him at the peak in a race from the flatlands. Fast runners and kings, it is what Ballydoyle is about to this day.

Vincent O'Brien forged these training grounds with a little help from Nijinsky, El Gran Senor, Sadler's Wells and other brilliant confederates. He is almost certainly the best trainer of horseflesh there has ever been.

If he is to be overtaken it may be by the man who now shares the Ballydoyle dream, the man who shares his surname. They say, quite incorrectly, that Aidan O'Brien is no relation. For he possesses the same quiet modesty, the studiousness and, above all, the horse skill of his predecessor. Predictions are rash in this game, but few doubt that the heavy Ballydoyle baton has been passed to the right man.

For this is a training centre like no other. Ballydoyle's gallops could have been designed by Capability Brown. They were not built. They were sculpted. It is an astounding investment, and like all investments, it must be paid for. It's great but the disadvantage is that if you can't make a job of it here with the horses, the facilities and the staff that are

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
in Ballydoyle

available then you're in bother," O'Brien himself concedes.

Horses are great commodities in this corner of Ireland. John Magnier, Ballydoyle's owner, is the glue between the generations. He is Dr Vincent O'Brien's son-in-law and the figure who liberated Aidan O'Brien from the world of jumping. He is also the leading man at the neighbouring Coolmore Stud, and the fuel for

'If you can't make a job of it here with the horses, the facilities and the staff that are available then you're in bother'

the twin operation is the nurturing of talented animals which others will use for breeding purposes.

"Making stallions is what it's all about here," Tommy Murphy, young O'Brien's assistant and former jockey to Vincent, says. "To keep a big place like this going and paying for itself you have to make a stallion a year at least. Aidan did it with King Of Kings last year and Desert King the season before that and he has to keep doing it.

"He's like the doctor in many ways. Both of them are very dedicated. You have to be here. They've both got very little to say. They're both quiet, laid-back men. You always get the impression that they're always thinking, always one step ahead of you. They've no time to be chattering. Aidan can achieve great things. What he's done already is remarkable. All he needs is the horses."

O'Brien will get the horses, the raw material, and he will be expected to show the ability of a diamond cutter, polishing and shaping the valuable goods brought to him. Reward and pressure will come in similar amount.

It is a package which makes Aidan O'Brien a particularly nervous character at the racecourse. His reticence in front of a television camera is such that it appears he may be the only trainer to have undertaken counter-interrogation training with Mossad in the Negev desert. If he ever gets a particularly difficult question he may ease a cyanide capsule out of his cuff and end it all. It is a lot to ask of a naturally shy personality, one which is just 39 years old.

There is, however, another Aidan O'Brien and it came out in the rain at Ballydoyle yesterday. At home, and with his horses, there is a chance to relax. The 100 Flat horses, 60 of them two-year-olds, which

he will nurture this year were well away in the main complex. We were in Margot's yard, one of Vincent's overspill areas, where the few National Hunt horses which O'Brien now trains are housed.

There are just six but they are no afterthoughts. Five of them will participate at the Cheltenham Festival next month and four are expected to win. Le Coudray, the animal recently purchased for a reputed £250,000 by the celebrated punter J P McManus, heads for the Stayers' Hurdle. Give It Holly contests the bumper and Darapour has a chance of handicap hurdles.

Poor Theatreworld, the runner-up in the last two Smurfit Champion Hurdles, is the one not expected to triumph. And that is because his box neighbour is the reigning champion Istabraq, a horse of enormous talent. The seven-year-old has saved the family name round these parts. His three-quarter brother Secreto became a viper in this garden of Eden by beating Ballydoyle's El Gran Senor in the 1984 Derby. Istabraq's talents lie in a different field but are no less towering. He collected last year's Champion by a record 12 lengths and, worryingly for others, looks an even more potent competitor this year.

O'Brien himself has been struck by the change in the beast. "Physically he's a stronger horse," he

says. "He's grown and matured. He's gone real round and strong, like a sprinter."

"We haven't worked him for his races this year and he's had it easy in his races. He's gone very slick at his hurdles and he's the star who oozes class. He's getting quicker and quicker all the time."

The final remark is not conjecture. "He can cruise at 40mph on the bridle doing a half speed," the trainer says. "That's unbelievable."

O'Brien does not arrive at this speed

'Making stallions is what it's all about. To keep a big place like this paying for itself you have to make a stallion a year'

by guesswork. It is what the needle tells him as a jeep shadows Istabraq along one of Ballydoyle's all-weather gallops.

Istabraq's record of 14 wins from 16 over jumps suggests he is an athlete of some resolve. The reality, though, is that he has a fragile psyche and each day has to be the same or his temperament will fold.

"He's got as relaxed as he ever was but he hates being taken from his routine," the trainer says.

"That's why you have to take him out first lot every day and leave him be. If you asked him to do something different he'd boil up."

"When he gets upset he's gone and he's borderline all the time. It will always be a worry because he can go from being real calm to boiling over just like that and you can't do anything about it."

There is nothing flamboyant about Aidan O'Brien. He has been the same since the first day of the 1993 season, when he saddled his first jumping winner. When he stared at the mountain of Irish racing it may have looked like a pitcher's mound through his spectacles. He conquered it in his first year.

The emphasis is different now and the principal task in hand is to make a Flat horse; to elevate the likes of Orpen, Stravinsky and Lavery to greatness. Before then he will attend Cheltenham and, as his nature demands, he will travel in day trips so that he can be with his horses morning and night. The helicopter from Ballydoyle to Prestbury Park will shuttle back and forward, an hour and a half trip each time.

"All the horses that are going there look like they have chances," he says. "There's still a big buzz." Aidan O'Brien will have that surrounding him for the rest of his Ballydoyle life.

Henry wants line-out clarified

RUGBY UNION

By WYN GRIFFITHS

GRAHAM HENRY, the Wales coach, will fly to Dublin on Thursday to meet Steve Griffiths, the International Rugby Board referees' development officer.

Henry was disappointed with the way the English referee Ed Morrison handled the line-out during Wales' defeat to Scotland in the Five Nations' match at Murrayfield on Saturday. Morrison clamped down on the Welsh tactic of arriving late at the line-out in order to secure quick ball. He called them in to the line-out repeatedly, negating a tactic which had previously brought success.

"We didn't have any problems with the Australian and Irish referee in the last two Tests, but Ed Morrison kept calling the guys in," Henry said. "It made it shambolic and increased the indecision."

Roger Pickering, the Five Nations Committee chief executive, has written to tournament sponsors Lloyds TSB complaining about the on-pitch logo in Dublin which caked Ireland and France players in dye.

The blue and red dye was not permanently adhesive to the turf, and Ireland's green shirts were soon multi-coloured. France, wearing blue, had red stains disfiguring them.

"It was unacceptable, and I have told the sponsors that they must explore the technical side of this to ensure it does not happen again," Pickering said.

The Lloyds TSB sponsorship manager, Mark Harper, responded by saying: "I'm not aware of any complaints. I had dinner with the Irish officials on Saturday night and they all thought it looked great."

The problem occurred when it started raining just after the logo had been completed, not allowing sufficient time for it to dry. "If it had been a muddy pitch the players would have got brown on their shirts instead of blue," Harper said. "It hasn't affected the score or made any real difference."

The New Zealand hooker Norm Hewitt broke down in tears yesterday and admitted he had an alcohol problem. Hewitt, who is captain of the Wellington Hurricanes Super 12 side, publicly apologised for his drunken behaviour in Queenstown early on Saturday morning when he severely gashed his arm after falling through the glass door of a house. Hewitt, in Queenstown for a pre-season warm-up against Otago, apparently mistook the house for his team's hotel.

The 30-year-old has not been dropped from either the All Black squad or the Wellington Hurricanes, but David Moffett, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union chief executive, confirmed he has been punished.

Hewitt said he would be seeking help for his drinking problem.

TOMORROW

He is Britain's most successful promoter, but if Frank Warren had his time again he would not work in boxing. Interview by Brian Viner

How Gatland's folly relieved me of my lolly

"OUR NEW Zealanders are better than your New Zealanders." So might a joyful Scotsman have said to a disconsolate Welshman, sobbing gently into his half-pint in an Edinburgh bar on Saturday night. Scotland had a New Zealand full-back, centre and flanker, while Wales wasted a full-back and a coach. The Scots might also have added a New Zealand wing had they chosen him.

As we know, rugby supporters do not talk in this way. Nor would it have been a fair reflection on the match. Wales were beaten fair and square in the forwards, Scotland having a quicker back row, which surprised me, and a stronger front five, which did not.

It is possible, though not perhaps profitable, to speculate on what

would have happened if David Young and Craig Quinell had been fit. I thought Wales would win even in their absence, but was insufficiently confident to put any money on the outcome. As I wrote last week, Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, had produced the spine of a side but has some way to go.

Gareth Thomas's presence would not have made any difference either. Dafydd James took his chance well, while Matthew Robinson made several almost-breaks and otherwise did everything that was asked of him except prevent Scotland's first try - though that really came from Shane Howarth's understandable, even excusable, inability to make a clean catch from Douglas Hodge's kick-off.

Hodge is now out of the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham in 11 days' time and perhaps for longer. It is no disrespect to Hodge to say that his absence strengthens Scotland's chances. He is a tidy enough player but is not Gregor Townsend. No one could call Townsend tidy. With the Lions in South Africa in 1997 he was famous for having his kicks charged down.

But he is also touched by genius. With Gary Armstrong to keep him on the paths of virtue, the Scots all of a sudden, by chance, have a Lions-class half-back pairing. Or, they can have one if they want it: for it is being suggested that Bryan Redpath, who was injured for Saturday's match, should return at Twickenham.



ALAN WATKINS

I think Jim Telfer and his two colleagues would be better advised to retain Armstrong, to fit in another Lion, Alan Tait, somewhere in the back five even if Jamie Mayer returns at centre, and

to leave the kicking duties to Kenny Logan.

Ah, kicking. It brings us to what happened in Dublin. Here I claim some precedence. As Lord Beaverbrook once remarked, if you do not blow your own trumpet no one is going to blow it for you. I suggested that Simon Mason should be picked at full-back for his place-kicking and that Conor O'Shea could be accommodated in the centre with either Ron Henderson or Jonathan Bell as his partner. In default of this arrangement (which, to be honest, I thought unlikely), I assumed Niall Woods would be on the left wing, not only part of London Irish's back three but also taking the place kicks in preference to David Humphreys.

I could not imagine that Warren Gatland, Ireland's New Zealand coach, would do anything else. But, astonishingly, he did. When he could have been putting over goals for Ireland (though Mason would have been even more reliable) Woods was playing for London Irish against Gloucester at Sunbury, scoring a try and kicking a conversion.

It is, admittedly, impossible to say that in Saturday's conditions Mason would have reproduced the faultless performance he gave on the previous Saturday at the same ground. Still, it was extraordinary folly by Gatland to go into the match without either him or Woods. For once, that is not hindsight on my part and it is Gatland rather than Humphreys that I blame for losing me money.

Not long after the war, the then editor of the *Guardian*, the great A P Wadsworth, wrote a leading article on the day before a general election advising his readers to vote Liberal. Next day he told his colleagues that, having done his duty to the paper's readers (and no doubt to the paper's proprietors as well), he was now off to do his duty to himself. So he trotted to the polling station to vote Labour.

Likewise I advise my readers to back France for the Five Nations. I then promptly backed Ireland at 20-1. It seemed a good bet. Indeed, it was a good bet. But despite the talk of Keith Wood and others about the Triple Crown, I do not now expect to see any return on what the book-makers like to call my investment.

Cricket: The preliminary skirmishes are over as Stewart sounds rallying call to his tiring troops

England aim to dig in for final battles

ENGLAND BEGAN this tournament providing abundant evidence of a force which could conquer the world. This is still not beyond them but since those heady days of three weeks ago they have sometimes given the impression of a fighting unit that would have trouble annexing their own back garden.

Perhaps this has been caused by an inadvertent relaxation, knowing that they had already advanced far enough to reach the finals of the Carlton & United one-day series but it is a potentially dangerous business.

Australia finished their qualifying games with a resounding flourish, jackbooting their way round the place with a total of 310 at Melbourne, and have lost no time in suggesting that they now occupy the ground which matters and have a distinct advantage.

So they do but, as Alec Stewart, the England captain, said defiantly: "We're in a new competition as far as I'm concerned now. We've had the first competition when we finished second but qualified, which is what counts, and now we've got to finish first."

This was slightly defensive but Stewart has a point - it is what finals are for - and readily conceded that his side had lost two games they should have won.

There is nothing wrong with this side's spirit and nothing much awry either with the bowling and fielding. It is the batting which has exposed their vulnerability. Stewart said they had made runs sometimes and sometimes they had not. But too often it has been the latter. Only twice on the six occasions they have gone in first in this series have they made above 200. Once, they made 302 and lost, but that was the game at Adelaide where special circumstances pertained, England failing to keep their heads

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Sydney

as cool as they might have done and Sri Lanka batting out of their socks.

"We don't have bowlers v batsmen," said Stewart. "We're all in it together. At times we've bowled well, at others we've batted well but it's a real team effort."

But he will be aware that the batsmen owe the bowlers a few now. If he and Nick Knight, the openers, could recapture their proper form it would make a marked difference. One of them has often got out early, neither of them has gone on when they have got in. It is perplexing.

Throughout the tournament England's bowlers have rarely let the opposition dictate matters. Stewart has not had many options - Australia, for instance, can use seven or eight bowlers and often do - but he has juggled them sensibly. The new-ball partnership of Darren Gough and Alan Mullally has worked with comfortable proficiency. Gough, as Stewart said, was the more explosive but Mullally was extremely steady.

Mullally, indeed, has been one of the most parsimonious bowlers around. He has never quite repeated the heroics of his 4 for 18 in the opening match against Australia and has not been as uniformly miserly as Adam Dale, but he has conceded an average of only 3.7 runs an over. Dale, for his part, has personified the timeless merits of direction and length, merits which rightly earned him inclusion yesterday in the Australian squad for the tour of West Indies. To win, England must try to hatch a plan which involves knocking him about a bit. Pinch-hitting may not be the craze it was but the first 15 overs are still important in setting the momentum of an innings.

The next few days (the first of three possible final matches will be in Sydney tomorrow only if the rain relents, and the forecast is poor) will determine not only the Carlton & United Series but will bring England closer to their World Cup squad. Different conditions - except the rain anyway - may exist in England in May but, if this team is victorious, they will be hard to disassemble.

"The ultimate goal which was planned 18 months ago is to make sure England win the World Cup," said Stewart. "This is all part of the planning for the World Cup. We have to make sure we have the best 15 players who can win the World Cup in England. I know what my 15 are now but there are three other selectors. The England World Cup side of 1992 (which was beaten in the final in Australia) was one of the best I have ever played in. This one has become a very good side. We have made progress since a year ago and we have played some fine cricket in this competition."

Both Gough and Neil Fairbrother are likely to be fit to play having rested their respective hamstring injuries and, although England are insistent that the policy remains of picking from the whole squad, their presence is important to balance, power and psyche. Tiredness and, therefore, paradoxically, stamina, may be a factor.

The weather may mean the use of the reserve day in Sydney on Thursday. It would still be a day-night contest finishing after 10pm and the players would then have to fly to Melbourne immediately for the second final on Friday. It could be trench warfare. England, knowing they are about to go home, should feel at home. They probably must win in Sydney to take the series, but they will not be jackbooted aside.



Darren Gough, whose hamstring injury has been a worry for England, warms up in Sydney yesterday

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 9 February 1999

Ketola restores Storm's status

ICE HOCKEY

MANCHESTER STORM regained the leadership of the Superleague after winning their top-of-the-table game with Cardiff Devils at the MEN Arena on Sunday night. Following a disappointing defeat in Bracknell, Storm delivered the perfect reply in front of a crowd of 12,038 to run out 3-1 winners, ending the Welsh side's eight-game winning streak.

Jeff Jablonski fired his side ahead after eight minutes but Devils, who recently ended Storm's year-long unbeaten home record, drew level through Merv Priest just before the half hour. Jablonski added a second with 15 minutes remaining and with the game in the balance, Stefan Ketola put the issue beyond doubt.

Nottingham Panthers can virtually concede their title hopes after they suffered a 5-2 defeat to Newcastle Riverkings at the Telewest Arena. The coach, Mike Blaisdell, has refused to write off his side's chances, however, but it now appears to be a two-horse race.

Riverkings made a lightning start when Hilton Ruggles beat Mike Zanier within 59 seconds and Blake Knox added a second by the quarter-hour mark. But Alex Dampier's side threw away a 2-0 lead for the second successive night as Panthers netted twice in the space of 74 seconds through Darcy Leowen and Paul Adey.

The second period came to a premature end when the referee took a puck on the ankle, but Riverkings regained the lead just 38 seconds into the final period when Ruggles notched his second. A bench penalty then cost Panthers the game as Knox netted on the powerplay at 57:07 and Kevin Conway tucked home a fifth in the final seconds.

Teams trade insults

SAILING

SKIRMISHES BETWEEN boats from rival America's Cup teams on Auckland's Hauraki Gulf have triggered a police investigation. The pursuit of yachting's biggest prize is still eight months away but tempers are already reaching boiling point, and Japan's Nippon Challenge have accused Team New Zealand of nearly decapitating their helmsman.

Terry Newby, general manager of the Nippon Challenge, says the hull of the defending team's support boat came within 10 centimetres of Chris Main's head. "There was foul language and threats from the Team New Zealand chase boat driver," Newby alleged. "Chris is a tough lad, [but] it knocked the stuffing out of him."

The incident, which occurred late last week, was reported to the police maritime unit. Sergeant Lloyd McIntosh said: "We will not tolerate this sort of thing."

Team New Zealand deny that such an incident took place, but agree that strong words were exchanged between the two boats.

Franks is called up

PAUL FRANKS, the Nottinghamshire all-rounder, will join the England A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa as a replacement for the injured Paul Hutchison who had to fly home last week because of a persistent back injury.

The England A management originally said they would need to find a replacement for the rest of the tour, but a groin injury to the Durham fast bowler Melvyn Retts has forced a rethink as they prepare for today's second unofficial Test against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo.

Phil Neale, the England team manager, said: "This is a necessary precaution because we still have three one-day internationals in Zimbabwe and two four-day matches in South Africa to play after this week's unofficial Test match."

Bichel chosen for Caribbean Tucker takes five in rout of Kiwis

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY

playing cricket almost without a break since September.

Steve and Mark Waugh and Ricky Ponting were at the Commonwealth Games, have since been to Pakistan for a Test and one-day series, have featured in the Ashes and the Carlton & United Series, and now embark for four Tests and probably seven one-dayers in the Caribbean. They will then travel to England for the World Cup. Apparently, the Australian Cricket Board have nothing arranged for July and August but there is time yet.

The captain for the West Indies will be announced on Friday. The three selectors, having chosen the squad, will nominate their candidate to the 14 members of the Australian Cricket Board. That recommendation could be either

Warne or Steve Waugh and, while the Board traditionally goes along with the panel, it is felt there is a clear majority in favour of Waugh.

The Australian all-rounder Michael Bevan has pulled out of his commitment to play for Sussex this summer and will be replaced by Michael Di Venuto. Bevan, who was to be Sussex's vice-captain, is to have a year off from his contract because of the World Cup in May and June and has signed a three-year deal to return to Hove in 2000.

Sussex responded quickly by signing another Australian left-hander in Di Venuto. He has a first-class average of 41.66, having hit 4,542 runs in 65 matches. He has played in 33 one-day domestic games, scoring 877 runs at an average of 31.32.

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Laid leaves Light Blues in the pink

ADAM LAID, a former Blue, gave warning to Oxford as he scored twice for Cambridge in the weekend's Gown and Town game. The University's 6-4 victory was a good time for Cambridge to return to form, with the Varsity match coming up next month.

The Light Blues other scorers were Julian Costelloe, who notched up two, Colin Campbell and the Belgian Thierry Gruslin. University are still nine points behind the leaders, Peterborough, in the Premier Holidays East Premier but have two games in hand.

In the South, Fareham continued their winning form with a 2-1 victory at Blackheath. David Cousins opened the scoring in the 15th minute and the veteran Colin Bradbury put them further ahead just before the interval from the penalty spot. Ravi Choda pulled one back for Blackheath midway through the second half.

BY BILL COLWILL

Wimbledon, four points behind the leaders, just about kept in touch with a 3-1 win against the former National League club Gore Court. Wimbledon's Andy Cruickshank taking advantage of the Kent side after they were reduced to 10 men. Robert Wilding and David Alford completed the scoring.

Two South sides with big ambitions were in goalscoring mood. Former internationals Don Williams and David Knapp both scored hat-tricks for Old Cranleighans as they crushed Beckenham, League leaders just before Christmas. 8-2.

Down a division, Old Georgians beat Oshott 10-0, with Gary Notton scoring five times for the second successive week to take his season's total to 39 in 14 games and the club's to 102 overall.

WARWICK

1.50 Edwards 2.30 Makoum 2.50 Native King 3.20 Naughty Future 3.50 Tara-Brogan 4.20 Avostar 4.50 Goodynelady

INSPECTION: 7.30am

GOING: Good to Soft (S&F in places on hurdles course).
Left-hand course. Run in 200 yards.
Course is W of town on A4020. Buses from stations at Warwick (10) and Leamington Spa (20). ADMISSION: Club £3; Terraces £2 (card-carrying students half-price, accompanied under-16s free). Course £5. CAR PARK: £5 in members' centre of course free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 25-05 (23.6%), D Nicholson 24-08 (22.2%), Mrs J Patten 15-72 (20.8%), F Davies 11-61 (30.7%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 22-56 (23.3%), R Johnson 20-51 (24.7%), N Williamson 18-81 (22.2%), A Maguire 14-02 (22.0%).
FAVOURITES: 25-12 (27.9%).
SUMMERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.50 RYTON HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m

1 POPP ANOTHER BEVELLED (5) (P) A Jones 11.4 - B Clived
2 36 EDWARDS (P) (3) M Pipe 10.5 - A P McCoy
3 5052 RIVER FRONTIER (2) (P) M Laver 10.3 - D Byrne
4 R AVERE (7) 9 Pacing 10.2 - W Marston
5 3P DANCING DEWISH (2) S Mator 10.2 - C Webb
6 4000 DORRINGTON (P) 8 Pacing 10.2 - L Harvey
7 42 GARDWOOD CATALIN (2) (P) Mrs V Williams 10.2 - J Gledhill
8 100000000 (P) M Pipe 10.2 - J Gledhill
9 3P BAKER LIGHT (P) (P) B Patten 10.2 - M Blatchler (3)
10 3P JACOBIN DANCER (P) M Bories 10.2 - M Richardson
11 JAMES JEWELL (P) 10 Chapman 10.2 - W Worthington
12 25 SADDLES ROSE (P) D Nicholson 10.2 - R Johnson
13 CSPP THE BREAK (P) J Joseph 10.2 - J Gledhill
14 005 TONY'S PRIZE (2) T Wolf 10.2 - C Llewellyn
15 MISS PASADENA (P) Mrs D Hane 10.2 - G Ramsey
- 15 declared -
SETTING: 6-4 Edwards, 7-2 Goodwood Cavalier, 5-1 Saddler's Run, 6-1 Leamington, 12-1 River Light, 14-1 Miss Patten, 15-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Goodwood Cavalier has an obvious chance, but preference is for EDWARDS, who ran too heavily last time and may be able to get a lead from Saddler's Run here. Edwards's stammered finish last time is among three Triumph Hurdle entries - Inner Light and Juddie Jewel are the others - but last his way on the flat.

2.20 PRINCETON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 322V ATOURS (P) Mrs A M Newton-Smith 11.3 - E Byrne (7)
2 4-023 BARBARA BOY (P) T Coey 7.13 - J Murphy
3 33-34 AMERICAN STYLE (P) Mrs M Mator 7.13 - J Johnson
4 24-5P LORD NOBLE (P) Mrs M Knight 6.13 - R Thornton
5 0P SPECTED STAGGANT (P) G Bradshaw 6.13 - S Wynne
6 0P-31 STINGS TEL (2) (P) M Patten 6.13 - A P McCoy
7 1-03P1 MAKOUUM (P) (P) M Henderson 5.13 - A P Fitzgerald
- 7 declared -
SETTING: 4-0 Makouum, 5-1 Lord Noble, 6-1 Atours, 7-1 Stings Tel, 12-1 Beryl Bay, 13-023, 15-1 Spectated Staggant

FORM VERDICT

MAKOUUM is much the best runner, even if backing short-priced and inexperienced novice chasers makes no appeal as a betting strategy. For those who prefer a bigger-priced alternative, Lord Noble makes most appeal.

2.50 IAN WILLIAMS' NH NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier) (D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 31 NATIVE KING (P) (2) T H 11.4 - T Murphy
2 12-341 WINDSON RUN (P) (P) J Williams 11.4 - G Toney
3 0-201 LIPS WORK (P) P Hobbs 7.13 - R Dunwoody
4 0-4-0 AMERICAN STYLE (P) Mrs M Mator 7.13 - R Thornton
5 0-0-0 BULLISTIC (P) D Nicholson 7.13 - J Johnson
6 42-44 MOSE TUNEY (P) M Henderson 7.13 - A P Fitzgerald
7 203-0 KING PADDY (P) Mrs S Johnson 7.13 - J Johnson
8 0-0-0 MEADOWS BOY (P) 8 Pacing 7.13 - M Newton
9 42-44 MOSE TUNEY (P) M Henderson 7.13 - A P Fitzgerald
10 0-0-0 MOY'S CASH FOR FUN (P) M Colquhoun 6.13 - J Hale
11 0-0-0 NOBLE BELAND (P) 0 Pacing 6.13 - J Gledhill
12 6-025 PRINCE TOR (P) S Bradshaw 6.13 - S Wynne
13 STRONG CUBBER (P) Mrs V Williams 6.13 - A P McCoy
- 13 declared -
SETTING: 7-4 Native King, 4-1 Windson Run, 11-41 Wills' Run, 6-1 Strong Cubber, 10-1 Mose Tune, 15-1 Prince Tor, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Three Royal & Sun Alliance Hurdle possibilities - NATIVE KING, Windson Run and Strong Cubber - are likely to dominate. Strong Cubber's breeding suggests he may be more of a long-term prospect than the previous winners. Using Aramis as a yardstick, Native King has the edge on Windson Run, and looks the less exposed of the pair.

3.20 CORAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m 5f

1 08P-1 A N C EXPRESS (P) (2) J King 10.2 - A P McCoy
2 49-34 CARBOO GOLD (P) (P) K Bailey 10.12 - N Williamson
3 5-7P APPLE JOHN (P) (P) Waring 10.12 - Mrs T Barry (7)
4 11-20 MAUGHY FUTURE (P) J J O'Connell 10.12 - R Johnson
5 3-296 RECTORY GARDEN (P) H Day 10.12 - R Johnson
6 33-2P STAY LUCKY (P) N Henderson 10.12 - A P Fitzgerald
7 423-4 OMAN (P) Mrs M Knight 9.11 - G Bradley
8 2223 SPRING GALE (P) (P) O Sheward 9.11 - J O'Sullivan
9 P-32F JURASSIC CLASSIC (P) (P) Mrs L Richards 12.10 - D Leahy
- 12 declared -
SETTING: 5-4 Knight's Quest, 11-25 Ful Of Oats, Carlton Gold, 5-1 Naughy Future, 10-1 Lay It On, 10-1 Spring Gale, ANC Express, 12-1 Stay Lucky, 14-1 Rectory Garden, Jurassic Classic

FORM VERDICT

OMAN has sound claims on the basis form he showed at Burton last time, a run which suggests he will stay 3m5f, and it can pay to take the chance that the blinkers will work again. Knight's Quest has to be respected, while Full Of Oats is hardly one to rule out despite his age, but both could struggle to cope with Olan H's in the same mood as last time.

3.50 IAN WILLIAMS' OWNERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 1P-3P CALL MY GUEST (P) (P) D Paddock 11.4 - A P McCoy
2 4-1P-3 CALL MY GUEST (P) (P) D Paddock 11.4 - A P Fitzgerald
3 1P-3P ASPRON (P) 0 Sheward 11.4 - J O'Sullivan
4 5-153 TARA-BROGAN (P) (P) J Williams 11.4 - J Johnson
5 11P-3 CLAUDIA ELECTRIC (P) (P) Mrs C Johnson 7.13 - D Leahy
6 8P-4 TWO TO TANGO (P) (P) H Twiss 6.13 - C Llewellyn
- 15 declared -
SETTING: 7-4 Call My Guest, 5-2 Tara-Brogan, 5-2 Hockley, 5-1 Aramis, 5-1 Claudia Electric, 14-1 Two To Tango

FORM VERDICT

It can pay to concentrate on CALL MY GUEST and Claudia Electric. A sound case can be made for the older horse, though he has been linked to just a single appearance this term, but there are grounds for having a saver on Claudia Electric - goes well fresh - at really decent odds.

4.20 AIR WEDDING TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 2f

1 22-1-2 ANOSTAR (P) (P) Mrs C Bailey 12.12 - J Paddock
2 00-02 SINGLE MAN (P) (P) J Jack 12.12 - Mrs T Barry (7)
3 5-7P APPLE JOHN (P) (P) Waring 12.12 - Mrs C Bailey (5)
4 22-3P CELTIC TOWN (P) (P) H Day 12.12 - Mr C J B Butler (7)
5 5-7P CHAMBERS WELL (P) G Brown 11.12 - Mr T O'Brien (7)
6 40-2P SCAND (P) (P) J J O'Connell 12.12 - Mr A Sweeney
7 5-7P MR WADDER (P) (P) J J O'Connell 12.12 - Mr P Flynn (7)
8 5-7P HANT LLYN (P) (P) Mather 12.12 - Mr P Flynn (7)
9 5-7P SINGER ABLE (P) (P) C Coady 12.12 - Mr P Flynn (7)
10 21-4 TITUS ANDRONICUS (P) (P) H Day 12.12 - J Paddock
- 12 declared -
SETTING: 2-1 Anostar, 7-2 The Andronics, 5-4 Apple John, 7-1 Twilight Tom, 10-1 Mr Wadder, Celtic Town, 12-1 Cherry Ability, 15-1 others

FORM VERDICT

APPLE JOHN can fulfil his potential. There are no stress doubts over Anostar. Single Man is one to keep an eye on.

4.50 FEBRUARY MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE (H) £1,750 added fillies & mares 2m

1 BRANDY SNIP (P) Henderson 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
2 DEAMONICUM (P) J Jenkins 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
3 ELEGANT MAID (P) (P) Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
4 GOODTIME LADY (P) J Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
5 GILSHAN Hedges (P) (P) Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
6 HATS MY GIRL (P) (P) Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
7 HONEY MOUNTAIN 10.6 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
8 JUST JERRY (P) A Sheward 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
9 LANSBURY (P) J Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
10 MACAMAGAY (P) A Sheward 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
11 MADAM (P) (P) Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
12 MASSIVE (P) (P) Patten 11.8 - N P McElhinley (7)
13 MOON ISLAND (P) (P) Patten 11.8 - N P McElhin

'From my experience he will get us very well organised. The team will have to get lots of shots in'

Martyn thankful for Wilkinson

The last Elland Road signing by the England caretaker manager is well aware of his qualities.
By Phil Shaw

GOALKEEPERS ARE reputedly a breed apart, and Nigel Martyn can certainly claim that distinction within the England squad for tomorrow's friendly against France. Alone among the players inherited by Howard Wilkinson, he worked with him at club level - and indeed played a reluctant role in the events that led to his being free to join the Football Association hierarchy.

Two and a half years ago, Martyn was in Leeds United's goal for the 4-0 home defeat by Manchester United that led to Wilkinson's tenure being terminated the following Monday morning. It was an afternoon that began and finished badly for the Cornishman, now 32, who remembers what happened in between with no great fondness either.

He scored an own goal inside three minutes, while in what proved to be the final act of Wilkinson's eight-year reign, he was helpless as Eric Cantona sealed the fate of the man who had taken them both to Elland Road. "Losing to our biggest enemies was probably the last straw," a mud-spattered Martyn reflected after training at Bisham Abbey yesterday.

Now, with that peculiar combination of symmetry and irony which football accepts as commonplace, Cantona's compatriots provide the opposition for Wilkinson's senior start since he left the Premiership and became technical director at Lancaster Gate. Martyn detected little change in his demeanour, noting that he was still "dry and witty", although he has witnessed a less urbane side to his character.

Weeks before Wilkinson's sacking, Martyn made his Leeds debut at Derby. The most expensive British keeper, a £2.25m signing from Crystal Palace, he looked set for a win-



Howard Wilkinson points the way to (from left) Kieron Dyer, David Beckham, Rio Ferdinand, Andy Hinchcliffe and Alan Shearer at Bisham yesterday David Ashdown

ning start when his new club led 3-1 with less than a sixth of the match remaining. But it finished 3-3, and the manager was not best pleased.

"I can remember him shouting and banging the table in the dressing-room," said Martyn. "He's not a cup-throver, but he did have a go at people because we made mistakes late on."

Martyn played only five times for Wilkinson, yet he formed a favourable impression of the man-management qualities he might bring to the England job. "I had a choice between Leeds and Everton when I left Palace. Leeds made me feel much more welcome, which was down to Howard

and the chairman at the time [Bill Fotherby]."

In terms of tactics, too, Martyn saw positive attributes. "From my experience he'll get us very well organised. The team will have to work the ball wide, get lots of shots in and generally put the opposition on the defensive."

Martyn had not played internationally for three years before Wilkinson gave him the platform to impress Glenn Hoddle. He has since won a further six caps and, though David Seaman is likely to face France, he is probably closer to being England's No 1 than ever before.

"David has come back [into the Arsenal side] from injury

and kept two clean sheets straight away," Martyn said. "I know Howard signed me, but I think track records are important for managers to fall back on when they start a job. All I can do is play well and wait."

England's track record in the European Championship campaign might best be described as patchy. While Wilkinson may or may not be in charge for the remaining qualifying matches, Martyn made it clear the coach viewed tomorrow's game as more than a spectacle to set before a full house at Wembley. "He has told us that a good result would get us in the right frame of mind for Poland next month. He hasn't looked beyond

Wednesday night for himself, but he is looking forward for us."

Tony Adams is also closely acquainted with Wilkinson's style - but as an opponent in many attritional struggles between Arsenal and Leeds. "His teams were always very determined, strong organised and physical," he said. "And he had good players."

Adams was openly critical of Hoddle after last year's World Cup. However, he took no satisfaction in his demise, saying: "There's a sadness when someone loses a job, whatever you feel about the individual."

The experience of a dramatic upheaval at Highbury, where Arsène Wenger

assumed George Graham's former mantle, has taught Adams not to fear change. "I'm very open-minded," he said. "When it happens I just say: 'Right, let's go again.'"

"I think it's business as usual with Howard. I'm a professional footballer; I get on the field and do my stuff. And it was great to be out there this morning."

Now was not the time, he suggested, for him to comment on Hoddle's departure. But at least one colleague thought he sensed a fresh spring in the centre-back's step. "Gareth Southgate took the micky out of me," explained Adams. "He said: 'For you to be training, there must be a new manager.'"



Martyn: Good impression

Goram to act on UVF claim

ANGRY ANDY GORAM yesterday emphasised that he will carry on playing for Scottish Premier League side Motherwell. The former Scotland and Rangers goalkeeper called a news conference in Glasgow after allegations over the weekend linked him to an Ulster terrorist group.

The Scotland international was pictured holding a Ulster Volunteer Force flag in a Sunday newspaper in a dated photograph made public by his wife, Tracy, who is currently divorcing the player.

Goram, who denies being a UVF sympathiser, retired from international football three weeks before the World Cup last summer because of attention on his private life but has since intimated he will reconsider that verdict.

There had been widespread speculation that Goram would quit the game only a month after joining the Fir Park club, but instead he denied the allegations and said he was taking legal action with support from Motherwell.

Goram also added that he was a 100 per cent supporter of the peace movement. "I categorically deny that I have any links with sectarian groups or terrorists," he said. "I do not condone violence and I wholeheartedly support the current peace process in Northern Ireland."

"I deny all the implications in these recent articles and am taking legal action against the newspapers concerned and the individuals who supplied this incorrect information. Because of the current legal situation I am unable to say any more."

Motherwell are giving Goram their full backing, saying he remains a player at the club. A statement, ratified by the owner and chairman, John Boyle, read: "Two newspapers have made serious allegations against Andy Goram. He has been accused of having links with terrorist organisations. Motherwell is a family club and takes these allegations seriously."

"As individuals, and as a club, we take no part in sectarianism. We have spoken to Andy Goram at length. He has assured us that he has been seriously misled and misrepresented and that he is taking legal action against the newspapers and individuals concerned. He remains a player at Motherwell."

Goram is no stranger to controversy and walked out of Scotland's training camp in America last May after allegations about his private life.

He left Rangers in the summer and had loan spells with Notts County and Sheffield United before training with FC Copenhagen. However, a possible move to Denmark broke down and he returned to Scotland last month after the Premier League's winter break.

Gary Holt, the Kilmarnock midfielder, has withdrawn from the Northern Ireland squad for tonight's B international against Wales at Wrexham after it was discovered he is not eligible.

The player had claimed his father was from County Down, but the Irish Football Association checked and found out that he was referring to his stepfather, and that his real parents are Scottish.

The episode is embarrassing for the Irish Football Association, and David Curry, the secretary of the international committee, said: "Gary's parents are Scottish, so he comes under the Scottish FA's jurisdiction."

Holt is not the only absentee from the squad - Damien Johnson, the Blackburn Rovers winger, has pulled out with a knee injury.

Record crowd expected

THE ATTENDANCE record for an England Under-21 international will be broken when Peter Taylor's side take on France at Derby's Pride Park tonight.

More than 30,000 tickets have been bought in advance and the game seems almost certain to be a 33,000 sell-out - even though there is not a single Rams player in the squad to boost local interest.

The turn-out will surpass the previous best for an Under-21 game in November 1994 when 25,963 saw England defeat the Republic of Ireland at St James' Park.

The last international to be staged at Derby was an Under-23 match against Scotland at the Baseball Ground in 1972 when the England side included Kevin Keegan, Alan Hudson, Mike Channon and Malcolm MacDonald.

Taylor has suffered two further withdrawals from his squad with the Chelsea midfielder Jody Morris, who suffered a dead leg against Southampton on Saturday, and Everton striker Danny Cadamarteri (illness) ruled out. They join the Manchester United defender Wes Brown, who pulled out on Sunday with a sore shin. Brown was replaced

by Bradford's Andrew O'Brien, but Taylor will not be calling up any further replacements.

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SPORT



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International football: Manchester United striker in no mood for contrition before England's meeting with France

Cole ready to make fresh start

GLENN HODDLE may have forgiven Andy Cole in the dying days of his England reign but the Manchester United striker was in no mood to return the gesture as he rejoined the international fold yesterday.

In November Cole had responded to Hoddle's repeated assertion that he wasted too many chances by choosing the front page of *The Sun* to label the former national coach "a coward" for not picking him.

Yesterday he professed neither joy nor sadness at Hoddle's sudden departure but he did say that, in a similar position, he would react the same way again. Cole said: "I've no regrets. I stick by what I said. I was disappointed. I felt it was getting personal."

"I'm not bitter towards Glenn Hoddle. That was his opinion and everyone is entitled to their opinion, but I would speak out again. People think it is wrong if a player does that but it is freedom of speech."

"I don't say a lot and when I do it is because something hurts me. I don't usually follow the papers but I was going to my nephew's birthday party and the missus [his girlfriend, Shirley] said, 'Can you get a newspaper?' I turned to the back page and there it was."

"When things like that happen the people you take it out on are your family and I had a barney with the missus for a couple of days. When I decided to [do the article] she said 'go ahead and do it'."

"Alex Ferguson did not know about it and he did not say anything afterwards. He looks upon me as a 27-year-old man with a family [he has a three-year-old son, Devante] who can look after himself. Everyone was surprised because it was a bit of an outburst from me. People know I don't speak a lot; my football does the talk-

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

ing for me. I've been described as being moody, sullen and dull but I am just a quiet chap."

Cole, 27, later said he was not too good with "the PR stuff" but, whether calculated or not, yesterday's interview was an impressive piece of rebranding. He was loquacious yet thoughtful, prepared to indulge in both banter and mild soul-searching.

The striker admitted he was surprised to be recalled but said Ferguson and his United teammates had told him not to give up hope. As for Hoddle's criticism, he said: "I do get a lot of chances and I'm not going to take them all. If I did I would be getting 40 goals a season and that can't be done. I score my fair share and I miss my fair share."

"If I get two chances at international level and put one away I'll be delighted. But I might get more chances. I'm the kind of player who makes chances for himself."

Cole does not expect to start against France tomorrow night but it would be a surprise if he was not involved in some way. Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker coach who saw Cole score twice at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, intimated that, given the recent exchanges between Cole and Hoddle, it would be helpful if he were.

Wilkinson added: "He and Dwight Yorke have developed a terrific relationship, their movement, their understanding of each other, link-up play, touch and perception are excellent. Andy combines better with other people now. There was a time when he was seen as just a finisher. Now he gets involved in making things for himself and others and helping the build-up of the team."

Cole has made two previous

appearances for England, both as a late substitute. He had 19 minutes against Uruguay at Wembley under Terry Venables in March 1995, and 14 minutes against Italy in Le Tournoi under Hoddle in June 1997. He hit the bar when he should have scored against Uruguay, pulled out of the next squad through injury and was never summoned by Venables again. Hoddle was prepared to give him a second chance, against Chile a year ago this Thursday, but he withdrew again, with a thigh injury, on the morning of the game. He figured in the next two squads without playing and was dropped in May.

Since his last international he has scored 43 goals for Manchester United at roughly two every three games. "A lot of it is to do with the team playing so well," Cole said. "I've struck up a very good understanding with Dwight. I spoke to him when he was thinking of coming to United and I was the first person to tell him to come."

"I never thought he would be a threat to me. Every season I am supposed to be leaving and I am still there. I scored 26 goals last season and I was still supposed to be leaving."

"We get on really well, on and off the pitch. We haven't worked on it a lot. When he first came I wasn't in the team. But in training the boys say we never pass to anyone else."

Cole's ambition for the match is to enjoy himself. Long-term it is to keep on learning. He, too, feels he is a much better player than in his Newcastle days and is glad his all-round game is now being recognised.

"I have nothing to prove to anybody but myself," he concluded. "You always have to prove some things to yourself and I want to prove I can do it at international level."



All the trappings: Andy Cole prepares for his return to the England fold at Bisham yesterday David Ashdown

Barnes enters Valley for free

BY ALAN NIXON

CHARLTON YESTERDAY completed the free signing of John Barnes from Newcastle, in a deal that will keep him in London until the end of the season. The 35-year-old former England midfielder, out of favour on Tyneside since the arrival of Ruud Geul, impressed Alan Curbishley during a trial last week and could go straight into first-team action against his former club Liverpool at The Valley on Saturday.

Liverpool, meanwhile, are sending their former prodigy and England Under-21 prospect Danny Murphy back to Crewe Alexandra, the club which discovered him. As far as Liverpool are concerned, his Anfield career is over, and the club's manager Gerard Houllier has decided to sell.

Liverpool want £2.5m for Murphy, which is optimistic given his poor form. The Crewe move will at least give him the chance to display his talents before the transfer deadline and should also help the ailing side's fight against relegation. There is no chance of Murphy's move becoming permanent, because of his high wages, which Liverpool will contribute to while he is at Gresty Road.

Peter Johnson is ready to sell a chunk of his Everton shares to Bill Kenwright, but wants to keep a stake in the club.

The Jersey-based businessman, who owns 68 percent of the club, is close to agreement on the sale of over half his stake in Goodison to a consortium led by Kenwright, the caretaker chairman. Around 60 per cent of his shares could be traded off for about £25m this week.

Mark Goldberg, the owner of Crystal Palace, will launch a plan to bring in badly needed funds today - by asking fans to buy a five-year season ticket. Goldberg plans to create a "fanshare" concept where fans pay for their seats for years in advance.

Among a host of financial problems, Goldberg is being threatened with legal action by former employees and agents who are owed money. Tottenham have put a trio of surplus imports on the transfer list, with Moussa Saib, Paolo Tramezzani and Jose Dominguez all being told they can leave White Hart Lane.

Blackburn have rejected a transfer request from their unsettled goalkeeper Tim Flowers, 32, a member of Rovers' title-winning side in 1995, demanded a move after losing his place to Australian John Filan. It was also announced yesterday that the Rovers striker Nathan Blake could be out of the game for several weeks, because of a disc problem in his neck.

Sheffield Wednesday have failed in their appeal to have a three-match ban for goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek reduced to one game following his recent sending-off against Derby last month.

Injuries prompt Dixon call

BY GLENN MOORE

IF NICOLAS ANELKA runs out for France at Wembley tomorrow he will see a lot of familiar figures. He was already faced with the prospect of having to get past Arsenal team-mates Tony Adams and Martin Keown to get in a shot at David Seaman, and now he may have to deal with Lee Dixon as well.

The Arsenal right-back was last night summoned to England's Berkshire headquarters as cover for Gary Neville, who has an ankle injury. With Emmanuel Pelti and Patrick Vieira also likely to play, the friendly international could resemble a high-powered Arsenal training session.

Though Dixon, who made the last of his 21 international appearances in Graham Taylor's

final game, against San Marino in late 1993, is 35 next month his call-up is logical. He is well acquainted with Adams and Keown, and the only feasible right-back alternatives were Warren Barton, who spends much of his time in midfield these days, Phil Neville, who is short of matches, or the uncapped Steve Watson.

Keown is another possibility, but with Sol Campbell suffering from a stomach complaint and Gareth Southgate carrying a hip injury, he may be needed in the centre.

The Dixon call-up indicates a return to a flat back four. Injuries permitting, Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker coach,

hopes to name his team today. He is also waiting on Darren Anderton (groin), Graeme Le Saux (foot), Dion Dublin (groin) and Jason Wilcox (foot) while Paul Merson has gone home suffering from a back injury.

Paul Ince, who the FA originally said would not be considered for selection, now appears to be back in the frame. However, since he is suspended by Uefa for next month's Euro 2000 qualifying tie against Poland, the benefits of playing him are limited.

The obvious advantage is that he may help England win. Wilkinson said: "I think one of the things Glenn [Hoddle] would have wanted out of this game is for the players to go into the Poland game knowing

they can win at Wembley because they had just done it against the world champions."

In five matches at Wembley last year England beat Portugal and the Czech Republic but drew with Saudi Arabia and Bulgaria and lost to Chile.

"One of my biggest problems," says Wilkinson, "is that I have not got my finger on the players' pulse the way Glenn had. It is like coming into any club - knowing how individuals tick, how they get on with each other, is important in team-building."

Roger Lemerre, the French coach, yesterday called up Sylvain Wiltord, the Bordeaux striker, to replace his club-mate Lilian Laslandes, who has a pulled muscle in his left leg.

McLaren suffer tow-truck trauma

MOTOR RACING

FIRST CAME the hype, then the hiccup as McLaren-Mercedes suffered the ultimate embarrassment yesterday as the team unveiled their new car for the Formula One season.

David Coulthard, with hundreds of photographers and reporters watching, took the all-new McLaren MP4-14 out for its track debut at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona, but had to be towed back to the pits by a Nissan pick-up truck after coming to a stop on the first lap.

"We just had an electrical failure, a slight glitch, as you have with all new cars," Anna Guerrier, the spokeswoman for the world champions, said. "This

was its first time on the track so you are always going to get teething problems." Norbert Haug, the head of Mercedes Motorsport, added:

Coulthard, after a delay, was able to eventually drive some test laps. He will also test the car today with the world champion, Mika Hakkinen, testing tomorrow and Thursday. The opening race in the world championship is the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on 7 March.

The new car is very similar looking to its predecessor, the championship-winning MP4-13.



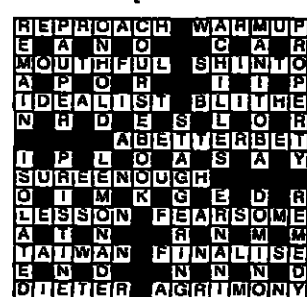
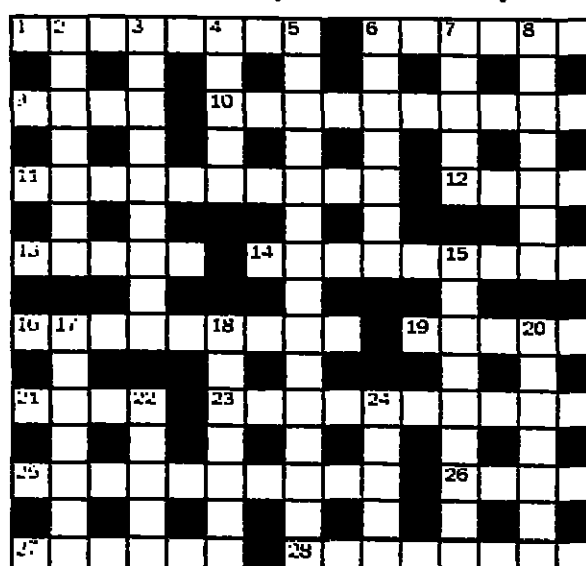
David Coulthard and the new McLaren are towed back to the pits yesterday AFP

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3841 Tuesday 9 February

by Aelred

Monday's Solution



DOWN

- 2 Take advantage of heroic feat (7)
- 3 Popular woman with trio playing for one who'll succeed? (9)
- 4 Having to pay nothing to flier (5)
- 5 Disreputable inferior male, we hear? (6-5,4)
- 6 Old master artist finds a help, perhaps (7)
- 7 Graduate has to study philosopher and painter (5)
- 8 Rodent's clever, as can be assessed (7)
- 15 Manipulative type in hot seat struggling to secure work (9)
- 17 Crossly I see traitor must be arrested (7)
- 18 Friend knocked over by success attained by good flier (7)
- 20 Female with horrid curl on top, beastly type (7)
- 22 Do better on right island - this island? (5)
- 24 Man a prisoner of unreformed die-hards? (5)

ACROSS

- 1 With exudation about civility nothing can be stored there (8)
- 6 A bigger hole to produce makes sappers tire (6)
- 9 O bother, you might say, if this fish gets away? (4)
- 10 South American power given an urban centre having insufficient space (10)
- 11 They must be put right about Rio Grande flowing (10)
- 12 His writers like these would be mocking title (4)
- 13 Condition of some of the best at equestrianism (5)
- 14 Shortly has work brought in specified as
- 16 "shell-shaped" (9)
- 17 Rock, applying big chances to right part of church (9)
- 19 Like Pisa's tower it is wrong in altitude (5)
- 21 Spiteful woman returns clutching large item chemist might sell (4)
- 23 Insubstantial people who manage glue factory? (10)
- 25 Where you'd find oracle having to show agreement about one sea creature (10)
- 26 Grey as Henry when empty (4)
- 27 Making observation I said gin must be poured out (5)
- 28 This tree can be used to make a garment (3,5)

هكذا من الأقلام

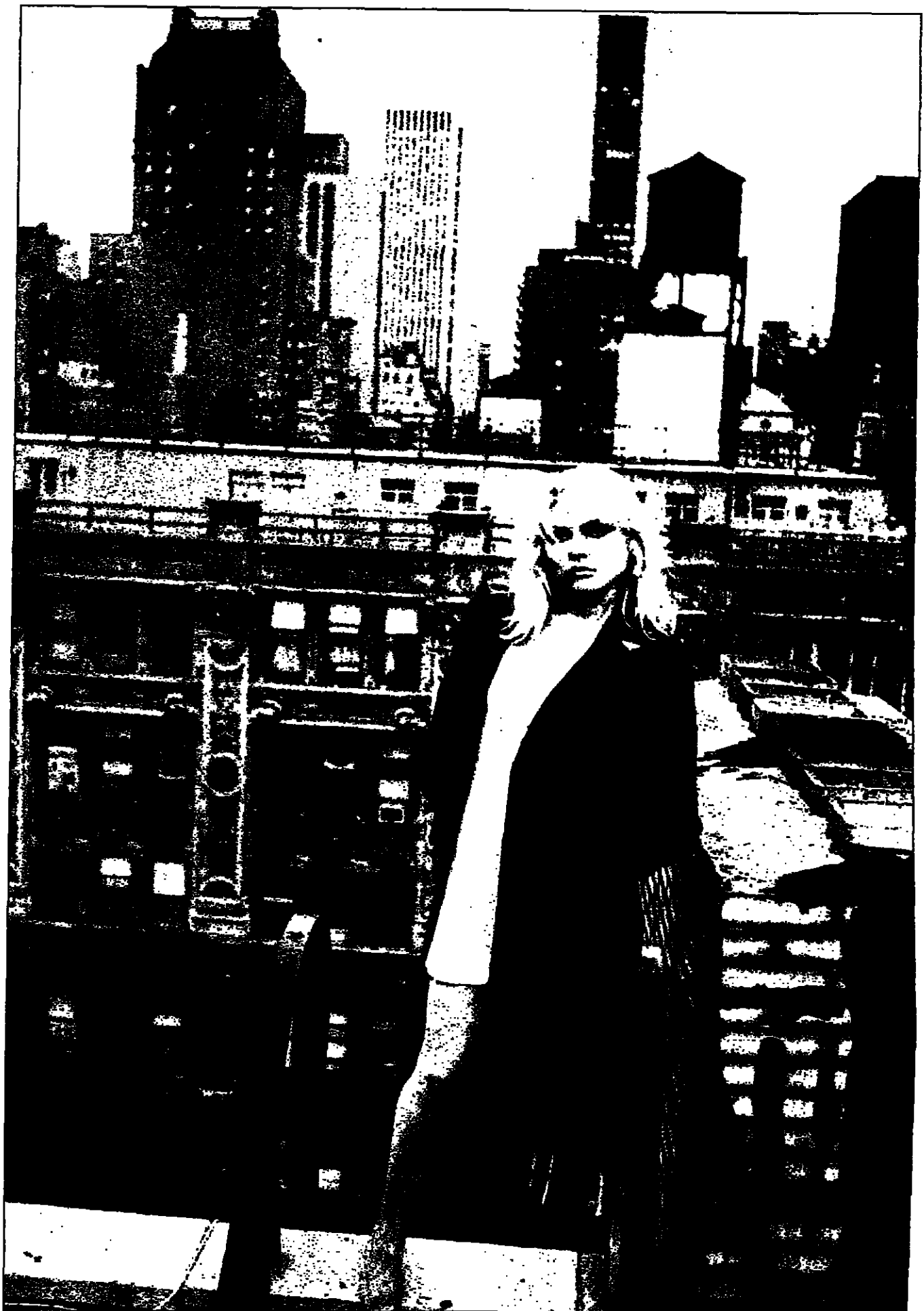
TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Comebacks are the curse of the age. So why do we fall for them? Or must we accept that, when it comes to Blondie, we're always

Touched by your presence, dear

BY JOHN WALSH



She had eyes like the Snow Queen, eyes that could look right into your heart and turn it to solid ice. There was no comfort in her gaze, no warmth, no interest. She sang with a kind of nervy blankness, as if the lyrics meant nothing to her, and, when she narrowed her eyes, you felt as if she must hate you. She was the most beautiful woman we had ever seen. We adored her. Her name was Debbie Harry, and she sang with Blondie, the most successful New Wave band in the restless period that immediately followed punk. We were just out of university, we'd been through punk – the pins, the rage, the gobbing, the spiky hair and the radical typography – and, in 1978, we just wanted some intelligent rock'n'roll again. Blondie came sassing into the charts and dished it up: "Deeds", "Heart of Glass", "I'm Always Touched by Your Presence Dear", "Sunday Girl". They were real songs, with real hooks, classy keyboard runs, torrential drumming. We danced to "Dancing", we sang along to "One Way or Another" ("I'm gonna getcha, getcha, getcha...") like karaoke nerds. And whenever there was half a chance, we just gazed at Debbie Harry.

She looks out from the sleeve of the band's third album, *Eat to the Beat*, with the glazed hauteur of a supermodel, her eyes toxic with disdain, her lips set in a soaring pout, her eyebrows arched in the most minimal enquiry, her platinum hair swept in a couture wave down to her neck – around which is proprietorially twined the hairy arm of Chris Stein, her Svengali, co-writer, guitarist and boyfriend.

He was a sultry, Brooklyn-Jewish, brooding sort of chap, and we hated him because she seemed to belong to him. Debbie Harry, the icon of transatlantic independence, belonging to anyone. How did that work?

The band were full of contradictions, and they mostly resided in the gutter Aphrodite who fronted them. She was both baby-doll young and too old for punk; it was rumoured that she was over 30, although she dressed in plain white shirts and white boots; she reminded you of every blonde goddess you'd ever seen, from Monroe and Jean Harlow right up to Nico, but hers was a different blondeness, at once trashy and

pristine. We knew she'd been a *Playboy* bunny, a waitress, a quondam junkie ("That's why her skin's so perfect," we explained, knowingly), but she was now a self-created goddess.

Things went wrong. When Blondie split up in 1982, her solo career wobbled uncertainly for 10 years. Debbie Harry shifted into shock mode. The sleeve artwork of her solo album *Koo Roo* was by HR Giger, the intestinally obsessed production designer of *Alien*, and featured Ms Harry's cheeks punctured by long, rusty spikes. She appeared in John Waters' camp and rubbishy *Hairspray* movie, and in David Cronenberg's deeply unsettling *Videodrome*. The good times were over, for Ms Harry and her fans.

A couple of years ago, I saw Debbie Harry again. She was singing with the Jazz Passengers at the Jazz Café in London's Camden Town, and I went along to check it out.

Can I bring myself to say what she was wearing? Can I say the word? Ms Harry was wearing a jumper. A sensible, ordinary, pink wool jumper. Her head, which had always seemed a little disproportionately large for her slender frame, seemed to have broadened out, like a Hal-lowe'en pumpkin after a week in the window. Her hair was mousy-nondescript. Middle age had finally caught up with the goddess. She seemed nervous, diffident, a little reluctant to sing. And when she did sing, her voice was thinner than I recalled, etiolated, drained of energy, more pale than blonde. She did "One Way or Another" slowly, as a wistful plaint rather than a statement of gonna-getcha sexual intent. The whole evening felt like a sad experiment.

Now look what's happened. At the end of January, a song called "Maria" started winding around the airwaves, with a high chorus line sung as though by a nun in suspenders ("Mah-ree-ah! Just gotta see her...") that sounded eerily familiar. The accompanying pop video was dark to the point of pointlessness, but through the murk you could make out the penetrating blue eyes, the trashy baret, the sharp Giger cheekbones, all over again. "My God, who's she?" breathed my 11-year-old daughter. We both gazed at Ms Harry, now 53, radiating sexy hauteur, singing in front of the old line-up, Stein, Clem Burke and Jimmy Destri, apparently reborn.

What's odd is how pleased you feel about this comeback. It's by no means a typical reaction. The Nineties have been so filled with comebacks,

retreads and recyclings that we sometimes seem to be in danger of entering a retro-universe, one that hits an evolutionary wall and then starts going backwards.

We may smile to see Lomax Donegan putting out a new record, *Muleskinner Blues*, at the age of 70, or to find the Sixties crooner Englebert Humperdinck being dusted down, and the rebarbative Tony "Is This the Way to Amarillo?" Christie turning up on *Top of the Pops*. We may utter a sympathetic "Awww..." at the news that a job lot of effete Eighties posers (Culture Club, Human League and ABC) are sharing an evening of nostalgia, or when we find Duran Duran insisting that they're very much direct competition to Blur and Oasis these days. We may look in wonder at a playbill from Wembley Arena announcing a concert this May – "the All-American Solid Gold Rock and Roll Show" – starring Little Richard, Bobby Vee, Chris Montez, Little Eva and Brian Hyland.

Who's Brian Hyland? He sang "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" back in the days when Princess Margaret was going around on a motorbike.

But the fact is, there are some comebacks that are just not acceptable to the public and some that are. The Osmonds, no. The Bay City Rollers, no thanks. Hawkwind, nah. Bros, no way. But Roxy Music, ooh yes. The Clash, yes indeed. The Pogues, God yes. And Blondie are right there among the yeses. They were a group you never had to defend your interest in, or justify your liking for: Ms Harry and her acolytes were geniuses at throwaway pop; that's what, paradoxically, made their songs so enduring. Ms Harry's look was a construct, that drew attention to her black roots, her pancake make-up, her machine-tooled gleam of sex; that's why we took her to our hearts. We cared for her because she encouraged us not to. We loved her precisely because she turned out to have a heart of glass.

And we liked the band because their songs were inconvertibly their own. Now, at the end of the Nineties, the hit parade is full of recycled songs, listless cover versions of hits from the Sixties and Seventies. Listen to 911's recent spotty warbling of Dr Hook's "A Little Bit More", or Emmie's antiseptic disco version of Roxy's "More Than This", or Boyzone's overwrought mangling of the Bee Gees' "Words", and the forty-something parent smites his brow, stalks the

living-room and tells his unimpressed children that they're listening to a series of pathetic simulacra, a plastic Echoland in which nothing is original except the singers' habit of wearing telephone-receptionist's headpieces while performing gymnastic dance routines that would have seemed dated to Pan's People, circa 1968.

We pick and choose authenticity in our lives. We choose these political beliefs, these clothes, this music, this shade of terracotta, this holiday destination, in the belief that, because they have a special reality for us, they are more intrinsically real than other beliefs, clothes, notes, colours, islands. We make them ours. We perform a series of passionate identifications with artefacts, selecting them from the cultural market garden, thinking they will combine in a harmonious, thousand-petalled display and that will be the picture of our soul. We may get it wrong all the time, but what we once chose was once part of our sense of who we were. That's what counts. And when a band such as Blondie comes back – driven by heaven knows what impulse of artistic or, more likely, financial need, but sounding true to themselves – you welcome them back, as you would regard with a wry smile a younger, handsomer photograph of yourself.

Why is this comeback so popular? Maybe the country is full of sentimental 35-to-45-year-olds who grew up with Ms Harry's trash-goddess vocals forming the sound-track of their lives, and now – with the house, the garden, the mortgage, the children and the asparagus kettle – like to feel they're still growing; that their heroine, their ice queen, is at No 1 in the charts, though of course they're far too mature to care about "charts". Perhaps the whole comeback culture is a saying-goodbye to the century by re-treading the boards we trod in youth. Somehow, you can't imagine a Culture Club Nostalgia Tour in the year 2001. It's that Big Nought, of course. The bands that used to make all the running have got just 10 months of final encores left before we hit Year Zero, and a whole new world of new acts, new music, new art forms, gets going.

I can't say. But I'll just go and put "Dreaming" on the record deck one more time. It's probably the best of the singles that conquered the world at the end of the Seventies, and it finds the goddess in reflective mode: "We don't stand on ceremony/ We just walk on by/ We just keep on dreaming". So do we, Deborah, so do we.

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Woodhead's gaffe ...

Sir: Contrary to Chris Woodhead's claims, it is not an educational experience when a member of the teaching profession has a relationship with a sixth-former.

My children attended a school where just such an episode took place. The two people involved were so self-absorbed that the education of pupils took second place to this grand liaison.

In the end the entire thousand pupils must have been aware of this affair. It became a source of gossip and sniggers. It brought the entire teaching profession into disrepute.

Chris Woodhead has now retracted his earlier statement. Which one do we believe? Or is there a third way? He is clearly unfit to supervise those who teach. It is time he went.
NAOMI BALCAN
Norwich

Sir: Chris Woodhead made very realistic and honest remarks about sex between pupils and teachers. He was, to anyone not a hypocrite or moral fundamentalist, quite right. Can we sensibly maintain that sex between a young man of, say, 17, and a female teacher of, say, 23, is necessarily a crime that should be punished with up to two years in jail and the end of the young woman's career?

Men who think this is so, and especially Blair and Blunkett, should try to recall their feelings about sex at 17, or even 16. All my pals when I was that age would have simply loved to have such an encounter - particularly for its educational value.
TED BURFORD
London W5

Sir: Recent events have made it clear that Chris Woodhead should not be put in charge of the England football team.
MICHAEL SWAN
Chilton, Oxfordshire

... and Hoddle's

Sir: Robert Davies argues that Glenn Hoddle's comments ought not to qualify for complete tolerance. If we follow John Locke - who wrote persuasively of the need for religious toleration, but refused to extend this to the expression of opinions injurious to the commonwealth (letter, 5 February). This may mistake what we should draw from Locke. He declined to extend tolerance to those who held views the substance of which, if acted upon, would be injurious to society: such as Roman Catholics, who, at that time, held that the constitutional settlement in England was illegitimate.

Mr Hoddle's views, though, relate to something purely in the realm of thought, or speculation. Nobody could act on them, even if he or she so wished. As someone with a disability, I do not feel threatened by them - as I would if someone said that the disabled are a drain on the nation's resources, with the implication that any help to them should be curtailed.
J M SMITH
West Kirby, Merseyside

Sir: It is now a sackable offence to hold religious beliefs that somebody else finds ridiculous: specifically to believe, under the influence of a faith healer, that we pay in this life for our own sins in a past life.

Tony Blair's church believes, under the influence of a faith healer, that God assumed human form in order to pay for somebody else's sin in a past life - Adam's. It was nice of God to punish himself for Adam's sin, because otherwise God would have compelled himself to punish us for Adam's sin obviously our just deserts given that we are Adam's remote descendants. Except that nowadays, of course, educated people like Tony Blair don't believe Adam existed in the first place.

The fact is, any religion sounds barking mad except to those brought up in it. Could there be a lesson here?
RICHARD DAWKINS
Oxford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Winter in Moscow No 2: Men eating chocolate and drinking vodka at sunset beside the freezing Moskva river

Andy Johnstone

Life in stardust

Sir: Now that the die is cast as to what the Stardust mission to Comet Wild 2 might bring back in 2006 we consider it appropriate to recount the chronology of our own published ideas that relate to the subject of cometary origins of life ("Nasa takes off in search of stardust", 3 February).

Although the ideas of life existing outside the Earth and of panspermia have had a history stretching back over many centuries, the concept of comets carrying microbes began only with our own researches. This work has been published in a series of books and papers since the mid 1970s. Prior to 1974 there were, as far as we could find, no references to organic materials in comets, let alone to a connection between comets and life. In October 1974 the first arguments for organic polymers in comets were published by one of us in collaboration with Professor V Vanysek of Charles University in Prague, and thereafter we extended this to discuss the explicit connection between comets and microbial life.

Our defence of cometary habitats for microbial life, including assertions of liquid water domains, was based on well-attested science - laboratory physics, microbiology and physical theory. It is ironic that a scientific community that adamantly resisted our arguments is now embarking on a historic mission that has as a prime objective a test of the theory of cometary life, a theory that was so deeply reviled in the 1970s.
Professor Sir FRED HOYLE
Professor CHANDRA WICKRAMASINGHE
Cardiff

Healthy cynicism

Sir: The "poisonous cynicism about governmental intentions" that John Carr (Right of Reply, 5 February) finds regrettable is the very basis of the American system. Checks and limits on governmental power was the overriding principle

in the writing of the Constitution. The purpose of US courts is not to decide what is in our best interest or what is good or bad, but what is consistent with the Constitution.

Decisions on Internet regulation are rightly libertarian in that regard. It is no coincidence that the Internet came out of this libertarian and unregulated system. I seriously doubt you would have the innovation and explosive growth of the Internet if it was under the control of, for example, the EU.
TOM HOFFMAN
Osprey, Florida, USA

Sir: Thank you for bringing to light Tony Benn's 1970 speech on the "Data Bank Society" (Classic Podium, 6 February). The NCCL conference took its title from that of my book, written with Malcolm Warner (1970). We warned of the inevitable intrusion into all our lives by electronic storage and distribution of personal data.

We pressed for adequate protective legislation: a few MPs listened; but Home Office civil servants cautiously drafted the Data Protection Act, which has been ineffective in the two major areas highlighted by Mr Benn. I have to live with the consequence of failing to get the law I wanted: more organisations know more

about me than I can remember; and I don't know who they are. I wish it were not so!
M G STONE
Chichester, West Sussex

Pension time-bomb

Sir: As your report (4 February) indicates, the Government's new "flexible pensions investment vehicle" does not appear likely to offer any significant new options. "Old Labour" state-run social security is seen as no longer affordable, but the Government is loath to replace it by anything they think will be electorally unpopular.

The fallacies which will vitiate the plan are the assumptions that everyone will be continuously employed throughout life and will put something away for their old age. It seems almost certain that in 20 years' time, there will be a large number of people back where they would have been in the 19th century. Some of these could have avoided it, but many will have made rational decisions which turned out to be wrong. But fault or innocence is not the point. Not this government's problem, but a huge problem there will be.

It is on this basis that I appeal to you to give the Citizens Income a hearing, an unconditional payment to everyone sufficient to cover basic

needs, independent of work or other sources of wealth. This is being seriously investigated in other countries, notably Ireland, and to a lesser extent in the Netherlands.

A citizens income may well be seen as the only option when the foreseeable crisis develops, but it makes sense now, and it would be better to introduce it as a choice rather than in desperation.
CLIVE LORD
Conventer, Green Party Citizens Income Costings Group
Bulby, West Yorkshire

Right to drive

Sir: Duff Hart Davis's feature on recreational vehicular use of old roads (Weekend Review, 6 February) stops well short of telling the whole story, as does the dramatic picture accompanying it.

Throughout the centuries Britain's roads have been quagmires. Read contemporary reports of any long journey from the Middle Ages onwards. In Commons debates on the creation of turnpike trusts in the late 18th and early 19th centuries fears were expressed of deaths as carriages fell into rutted sections of roads, some of which are now dual carriageways; and others remain just as they were then. As many miles of footpath are

ruined at the feet of hordes of walkers as are historic old roads damaged by modern vehicles. Only 4 per cent of the country's rights of way may be used by vehicles. Illegal use may raise that figure to 5 or 6 per cent. Is it too much to ask walkers who may be offended at the prospect of meeting a vehicle to walk the other 96 per cent?

And while they are walking please may I ask that they don't park outside my house, nor even drive past it on their way to and from their walking destination. The sight, noise and fumes of their vehicles offend me as much as wheel tracks in the countryside appear to offend them.
GEOFF WILSON
Lazonby Cumbria

Third World wages

Sir: Titus Alexander's claim (letter, 5 February) that "lack of demand in the world economy could be cured by paying people in the poorest countries more for their work" is economic quackery.

It's a basic Keynesian point that wages are pinned to the marginal product of labour. As Paul Krugman has observed, "all of the supposed excess production in the world economy has as a necessary counterpart increased income - every dollar of sales must also represent a dollar of wages or profits to somebody."

That increased income must be either saved or spent. So inadequate aggregate demand in the global economy would necessarily be reflected in a global excess of savings relative to investment opportunities. Yet savings rates in the developed economies have generally been falling, while in the developing world they have been rising less quickly than investment demand.

So far from stimulating development, Mr Alexander's inflationary recipe would be the surest route to cutting real wages and depressing living standards in the Third World.
OLIVER KAMM
London WC1

Why have children?

Sir: The reason society should support child-rearing is simple (letter, 3 February): because like no other lifestyle choice, society needs children in order to continue to function. But if everybody decided not to have children until they could afford them, only the very rich would ever reproduce.

There is a growing body of opinion in the West which believes that only the rich have the right to reproduce, and anybody else daring to be feckless and selfish and should probably have their offspring confiscated and re-allocated to more deserving recipients (ie richer ones). The logical extension of this, of course, is that whole nations with low GDPs should just contracept themselves out of existence, as they obviously can't afford children.

Such repellent Malthusian ideas went out of fashion after the successes of the postwar liberation and civil rights movements, but are creeping back into respectability under the guise of pretending that child-rearing is an individual, rather than a social project.
JEAN MOLLOY
London SE13

Sir: In response to the article "Brain food for babies" (2 February), I feel that there is a lot of self-righteousness and snobbery attached to breast-feeding.

My first child was part breast, part bottle-fed for his first seven months. Like Anabel Hands' two-and-a-half-year-old breast-fed offspring, he could be described as having "stunning" speech.

With my second child I ignored the social pressure to breast-feed and - blow me down - she, too, could be described as a "very alert baby". My second child has had a much healthier first year than her brother despite being "deprived" of "mother's milk".

I am sure that several factors affect children's cognitive development, early feeding just being one. Women should not be made to feel that they are in some way failing their children if they choose not to perform what for many is a difficult and arduous task.
ANGELA WALSH
Birmingham

Too many secrets

Sir: I am pleased to hear the Government is considering introducing a public interest defence into the Official Secrets Act ("Ministers in review of Secrets Act", 3 February).

In 1988, on behalf of the Labour, Roy Hattersley said: "It cannot be necessary or right to make every item connected with security, no matter how loosely, subject to automatic restriction. It is intolerable that the Government alone should be able to define the individuals who are covered by the blanket ban, and the categories of work to be shrouded in secrecy."

The section which was being used against my client David Shayler does not require that the disclosure needs to cause specific kinds of harm. If an employee of one of the services discloses anything, no matter how trivial or inaccurate, they will be guilty of a criminal offence.

Free speech has to be weighted against national security, but a public interest defence would allow that balance to be struck by a jury. It would also ensure that the Act complied with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The current Act forces us to trust the Government to get the balance right. History teaches us that such complete trust in government is misplaced.
JOHN WADEHAM
Director, Liberty
London SE1

Free love

Sir: Readers of an affectionate disposition, or those with harems, might be interested to know that our local Woolworths here in Uxbridge has been offering three Valentine cards for the price of two.
CHRIS PAYNE
Uxbridge, Middlesex

Everything you always wanted to know about rubber boots

YOUR INTEREST in the outskirts of English vocabulary is as lively as ever, and I get a constant stream of inquiries from readers about obscure words and meanings. As you know, I tend to store these up until I get a visit from our resident expert, Dr Wordsmith, who spends most of his life in his local pub, doing language research. But I am delighted to say that he is with us again today, so, without further ado, over to the great man himself.

Dear Dr Wordsmith, As I was going out for a walk today I was putting on my gum boots, or what we also call our wellington boots, and I was wondering why there was any particular difference between a gum boot and a wellington boot.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Is that your question?

No, it isn't. I am sure there is no particular difference between gum boots and wellington boots. It is quite interesting, however, that we have two different expressions for exactly the same item of apparel, which seems a case of over-production.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Just a one-off, surely. There is no other example of a garment which has two equal names.

Well, that's not quite true, is it? After all, there's scarves and mufflers. There's underpants and knickers. There's jerseys and jumpers. There's...

Dr Wordsmith writes: All right, all right, wise guy! So, when I said that no other garment has two names, I should have said that EVERY other garment has two

names. Big deal. Now, what's your question?

Well, I was thinking that it's interesting that the name "gum boots" has survived as well as "wellington boots" has, even though "gum boots" has no linguistic by-products.

Dr Wordsmith writes: How do you mean?

I mean that there are no slang words or expressions associated with gum boots. We don't say "I'm going to put on my gummies" or anything like that. Whereas we do talk about a pair of wellies. We even say "give it a bit of welly", meaning to put your foot down, and we also use "welled" as one of the many synonyms for drunk.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Do we? Yes, we do. We also talk about the "green welly brigade", as a short-

hand reference to the kind of gentry who go to point-to-points, wear Huskies and talk in loud voices.



MILES KINGSTON

We mustn't make the mistake of thinking that Wellington went to battle in gum boots

Dr Wordsmith writes: Do we? Oh, yes. Of course, the wellington boot derives its name from Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington, who also gave his name to a well-known tree.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Which one is that?

The wellingtonia.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Right! I'm with you, I think.

Of course, we mustn't make the mistake of thinking that the Duke of Wellington went to battle in gum boots. For one thing, it would have looked a bit *infra dig*. For another thing, they hadn't invented rubber properly by then. The name "wellington boots" had originally been given to leather boots which were cut lower at the back to allow the knee to bend freely. Not that people never bent their knees

before the Duke of Wellington came along...

Dr Wordsmith writes: Look, have I missed something or have you asked your question yet? It wouldn't matter so much, except the pubs have just opened and I think it's my shout...

My question is this. As I was putting my wellington boots on this morning, I realised consciously for the first time that there is a certain technique involved in tucking your trousers into the back of the boots. You don't just stuff your trousers down the boots, because they wouldn't fit. What you do is pull the leg back as far as it will go, then fold it round to the side and, while holding the trouser into the side, slide your leg into the boot, then leave go of the trouser.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes, I've

got that. Now, what's your question?

I just wanted to know if there was a word to describe that very particular and quite unusual technique.

Dr Wordsmith writes: I shouldn't think so for a moment. Do you realise, Dr Wordsmith, that all the information contained in this column has been provided by the readers and not a bit of it by you? Just what kind of an expert are you?

Dr Wordsmith writes: A very thirsty one, sir, and a very annoyed one at having been dragged out of the pub just to answer madcap questions about rubber boots. You will find me in five minutes' time at the bar of the Three Jolly Cobblers - till then, good day, sir!

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At last – the start of a strategy to care for the carers

THE BLAIR Government's search for "joined-up policies" took a step forward yesterday, when the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, launched the first national strategy for carers. Such a strategy is long overdue, and not simply to give carers' morale a boost – although it is to be hoped that it will serve that purpose. The real breakthrough was the change in the quality of service that carers will be entitled to demand.

The state saves an estimated £34bn a year through the work of all those who struggle to care for aged or infirm relatives, a captive reserve army of 6 million who now deserve some of that money back. Many of them are old people caring for their spouses, children looking after their parents, or women forced to interrupt careers to look after children. These forgotten props of the welfare state are not just receiving some of the recognition they desperately need; with just a little attention to detail, the Government is trying to change their everyday lives.

Investment in people, rather than institutions, will save money in the long run. Even something simple such as a ramp at the front door would prevent a district nurse or home help having to attend every time a wheelchair-bound resident wanted to get into his or her own home. Better trained carers will be able to cope with more difficult illnesses, allowing the elderly to stay at home longer, and forestalling the need to institutionalise them.

More importantly, new statutory regulations allowing social service departments to provide services direct to carers, and clear rights for those looking after their relatives, mark another stage in the shift from a command economy in care to a more consumer-oriented approach.

There are too many examples of crass insensitivity on the part of social services to represent isolated incompetence; their whole culture must now change. Local bureaucrats have to begin to serve customers rather than provide the services they have already decided on. As with their Social Exclusion Unit experiment, New Labour is rightly trying to bring together different agencies to serve people whose needs cannot be departmentalised.

The caring professions have been hampered by confused responsibilities; doctors, lacking the time for such work, often trust that local authorities are picking up the pieces. A survey published last September by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers showed that most carers felt GPs to be unaware of their needs. The National Strategy will increase consultative links between the NHS and local authorities. This should help to discourage narrow specialisms, dovetailing with the efforts of the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, to establish joint budgets for the two services and to raise the standards of social services through a General Social Care Council.



This change in attitude is more important than the extra money Mr Prescott announced yesterday. The provision of £140m to allow carers to take a break is not much, shared between 6 million people. It will amount to little, if it is not accompanied by an end to the division between health and social services that has plagued the provision of home care ever since the Sixties, and the start of a process that will lighten the burden of caring.

Much has been achieved through the campaigns mounted by carers' organisations, the burgeoning of which has been one of the most positive developments of recent years. The legal status of carers has been established; Invalid Care Allowance is to be paid to married women; council tax concessions have been granted. But in the end the most important development was the one reinforced yesterday: the move from prescribing care for a whole community to caring for the individual needs of some of the most valuable, resourceful, responsible and vital members of our society.

The stock market must not be too exclusive

A COMPANY named Rebus is casting off its London Stock Exchange listing: this modest computer services firm will be "going private". The news is unlikely to make much of a splash. But the point about Rebus is precisely that it is, relatively, insignificant. It is not the first, and will certainly not be the last, smaller enterprise to de-list. This tendency has been growing. So Rebus is a significant story for what it tells us about the state of our capital markets.

The main problem faced by smaller companies listed on the London International Stock Exchange is that they are a big yawn for the big institutional investors. It is only to be expected that, pushed ahead by a wave of globalising mega-mergers, the larger companies' share prices will outperform those of smaller ones. But the gap in performance

between the bigger and smaller companies has been growing at an alarming rate for some time.

The bull market has passed many firms by. This suggests a degree of market failure. Teams of researchers watch big firms' fortunes – and some smaller companies in trendy sectors such as the Internet – like hawks. Unfashionable smaller companies are under-researched, and thus under-bought. They then underperform and look even less interesting. A cycle soon sets in.

The market does have a correcting mechanism. When those who do know the true value of their concerns – often the existing management – see a bargain, then they buy their company from a neglectful stock market. But there is a price – the end of access to a cheap source of capital.

Generally, the world's stock markets are efficient ways of raising money. The markets can, as biotech and technology stocks show, take a long view. But for many smaller companies it is unfortunate that the stock market is becoming a more and more exclusive club.

These rebels may be game for a laugh, but they're good for nothing

RHODRI MORGAN is every educated Englishman's idea of what a Welshman should be like.

The MP is dark, his eyebrows are bushy, his voice is mellifluous and rarely silent; barbed blood can easily be imagined to be coursing through his veins. At night he probably meets under Llareggub hill and declaims with Butcher Beynon and the Reverend Eli Jenkins. As a personality he seems an altogether natural choice (to an untutored English eye) for the Welsh Labour Party to pick as its candidate for the post of the first-ever Welsh First Minister. If you wanted an eisteddfod opened, Rhodri would appear to be your man.

But then, we English have not really been following the Welsh debate, nor will we have to live with the consequences. We simply note that Morgan's Blairite opponent, Alun Michael – the current Welsh Secretary – lacks *huzyl*. His features are sharp where Morgan's are craggy, his tones flat where Morgan's are musical; his pronouncements are boring and careful, while Morgan's are exciting and a bit... *huzyl*.


The word, I think, is "silly". This feels a harsh thing to say about a man who is so popular with the Westminster press corps. When I was – briefly – a parliamentary sketch writer at the House, Rhodri Morgan was one of the few MPs who used regularly to telephone me and my colleagues with some droll tale that we might have liked to follow up. For my part, all too often, I couldn't quite see the joke. I was grateful, but slightly nonplussed. And that was also how I felt this

weekend when I opened my Sunday newspaper and discovered a fairly typical "what-the-hell-do-we-put-on-page-10?" spread about the BBC's planned programming on the first day of the new millennium. There, surrounded by pictures of Des Lynam and Jill Dando, was a story claiming that anger was growing outside England at the preponderance of English presenters who would be fronting this event.

Tam Dalyell MP was cross, while admitting that he hadn't even heard of Jill Dando, but the longest, most newsworthy comments came from our Rhodri. "The BBC is planning for its usual London-based luvvies," he is reported as saying. And he is supposed to have added: "This is the age-old problem of the BBC not being truly representative of Great Britain and, as usual, it is the Welsh and the Scots who are largely ignored."

It so happens that, these days, being Scottish or Welsh is an immense asset should you want to be a TV or radio presenter. Scottish and Welsh accents are considered to be engagingly déclassé in a way that English regional accents or received pronunciation are not. Tune into the *Today* programme and you will quickly discover that, of its three main presenters, two are Scots and the third is Welsh. At the other end of the day, on *Newsnight*, Paxman may be an Englishman, but Kirsty Wark is certainly neither of those things. Rhodri is just plain wrong.

However, this kind of mild, if empty, "speak first, think later" populism has characterised quite a lot of the



DAVID AARONOVITCH
You might vote for them, but only in the knowledge that there would always be Westminster to fall back on

Morgan campaign so far. It reminds one of the fact that, even before the Welsh referendum, Morgan was not chosen by Tony Blair to fill any position in government, including the Welsh Office.

Alun Michael, however, had already been Jack Straw's right-hand man for some time; and – though unspectacular in demeanour – was thought to be doing a good job at the Home Office, having never held a government post before.

Interestingly, it is those who voted against Welsh devolution who, in my experience, are more likely to support Morgan's candidacy. Some want to punish Tony Blair for inflicting a Welsh Assembly upon them; others reckon that if the thing is going to exist it may as well be led by an enthusiast. However, overall there is a sense

that this is one election in which it is fine to make a gesture, to do something different, to stop being so goddamn restrained and responsible – a sense, if you like, that it doesn't really matter.

This is supplemented by something else, which is unique to the British left: a hatred of being in power. A few weeks ago a man wrote to *The Guardian's* letters page, expressing these sentiments: "I, too, have been a Labour supporter for 30 years," he lamented, "and I too have spent the months since May 1997 in a state of almost continual depression."

In London such a man would be campaigning hard for Ken Livingstone as the capital's mayor, I imagine. Ken, of course, is lionised by the luvvies who so worry Rhodri. That's because he's a laugh, is Ken, a character. The powers that be disapprove of him, and he uses their disapproval to fuel his campaign as any icon of teenage rebellion would. At one level Ken is the candidate for those who don't want to tidy their rooms and do their homework.

It is not Ken's fault that few can be bothered to read the large print, let alone the small. In a full-page advertisement in yesterday's *London Evening Standard*, Ken repeated his claim that "there is simply no question of my using the mayoralship to wage political warfare against the Government". Nevertheless, he wants to increase corporation tax on city firms, otherwise "we will find ourselves in conflict with the electorate and with public sector unions". That, most emphatically, is not the view from No 11.

In the same advertisement, the Ken campaign proclaims that "Londoners are subsidising the rest of the country. For each pound... we get back only 75p." His target, once again, is Gordon Brown and the subsidised Scots. Not very undaunting.

This is, of course, a mirror image of what the Scottish National Party has been saying to the increasingly sympathetic Scottish electorate. Where Ken sees a cabinet full of Scots, the SNP portrays a Labour Party full of Middle England-appealing Islingtonites. London plays the same role in SNP demonology as Dublin does in Ian Paisley's. The SNP argues that Scotland would do well out of a divorce.

As I write this, it is not impossible that all three campaigns – Morgan's, Livingstone's and the Scottish National Party's – will succeed. It raises some interesting possibilities for the future as these populist movements call for money to be stripped from the others and handed over to them. And I fully concede that each of the three represents something that is attractive about its nation or city.

The problem is that none of them is really serious, really grown-up. You might vote for them, but only in the knowledge that there would always be Westminster to fall back upon if it all went belly up.

You can get Ken and still have Tony in No 10; you can enjoy Rhodri safe in the knowledge that the Alun Michaels are really in charge; you can take a punt on the Nats, but Gordon will still be running the economy. Which will be fun for a while. But, like all teenage parties, it won't last.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"After all this time and all this effort by so many people, I still don't have any answers."
Duwayne Brooks,
key witness in the Stephen Lawrence case

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Life is a tragedy for those who feel,
and a comedy for those who think."
Jean de la Bruyère,
French author

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TO SAY that the death of King Hussein has plunged Jordan into uncertainty is an understatement. Days before his death he made his son his successor instead of his brother, who had had 34 years of grooming. The last-minute switch ensures a degree of animosity towards the prince who is unschooled in politics and innocent in the ways of palace intrigues. In the Middle East equation he is an unknown, yet expected to live up to the towering achievements of his father. Few successors ever do.

KING HUSSEIN'S son's mettle will be tested as he learns to steer the country through regional landmines. A number of Arab countries have stretched their hand of friendship to King Abdullah – he can expect his relations with the United Arab Emirates to be as cordial as his father's. Abu Dhabi has made known its gesture of support

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the future of Jordan following the death of King Hussein

and its high-level delegation for the funeral is an indication of its regard for the new king. The Arab support being extended to him is a good omen. *Khaleej Times, UAE*

THE NEW king, Abdullah, will reassure allies and friends that he will keep all of Jordan's commitments, while letting enemies know that he is not weak. Each step he takes will be

carefully designed to prove his readiness and competence, but the real test will come in five years or so if, and when, King Abdullah has proven himself to be the rightful, capable monarch ready to move out from his father's shadow. As for now, part of King Hussein's great legacy – despite his last-minute reshuffling of succession – was his ability to give Jordan such a relatively serene transition. *Jerusalem Post*

ABDULLAH PROMISES to follow his father's lead and pursue a policy of peace in the Middle East. But he has a long way to go before he can escape the legacy left by his father. Abdullah's transition to the throne takes place at a time when the peace process is deadlocked over the suspension of the implementation of the Wye agreement. Analysts expect it will be some time before Abdullah plays a role in the process. *China Daily*

PANDORA

JUST AS Jack Straw is about to introduce a shake up of the system for dealing with asylum seekers, Pandora hears of the arrival on his doorstep of another group of desperate refugees. Hundreds of mice have turned up at the Home Office building at Queen Anne's Gate in London, having fled the tyranny of environmental health officers who have driven them out of their home under the nearby Tube station, St James's Park. Straw has remained true to his promises to remain firm but fair to those who come to him seeking sanctuary. Pandora heard that he has installed a network of rodent-friendly traps designed to capture but not kill. A Home Office spokesperson rattily told Pandora: "There has been no evidence of the mice for almost three weeks but I can tell you that there has been no danger to staff."

THE NORTHERN Ireland Assembly is looking for an "Unser-Editor for the Chamber of the Serivut Account (Hansard)". The "Sellerie will be £13,737 tae £19,215 on a six-month leemited-term contract". In other words, this is the Ulster-Scots or "Ullans" translation of an advertisement that will appear in tonight's Belfast Telegraph for a sub-editor for the Assembly's Hansard report of its proceedings. Pandora is reliably informed that it is the first Ullans advertisement of its kind. An Irish speaker is already in place but it will be hard going to find the Ullans equivalent. As a new, trilingual era beckons, Pandora is told that even finding someone to draft the advert was hard enough.

THERE'S A sort of bizarre symmetry in the appearance of Gants Hill, Essex, which featured in a new report on our suburbs by the Civic Trust. The last time journalists were wandering the streets and writing colour pieces on this obscure suburb was 29 years ago, during the civil war in Jordan, when it was the central news-gathering point for reporters seeking news of the beleaguered King Hussein. All communication links with Amman were down and for a week much of the war news plus interviews with the king were channelled through the dining-room of a terraced house in Gants Hill. Front pages

were filed from the dining-room, TV crews from all over the world camped out in the prim suburban street, filming everything that moved, and one night the BBC2 news was even presented live from the house.

VIEWERS of the Scotland vs Wales rugby match in the Five Nations' championship on Saturday will have caught a glimpse of Donald Dewar and Alun Michael, the respective secretaries of state, watching the game at Murrayfield. Michael certainly deserves some relaxation after a few setbacks in his contest with Rhodri Morgan for Labour's choice for Welsh Assembly leader. Pandora has followed the contest closely and wondered where Rhodri Morgan was for the game. It appears that on Saturday morning both men were campaigning in North Wales. Afterwards Michael was flown out to watch the game live in Scotland, while Morgan chose the humbler surroundings of Wrexham Labour Club TV lounge.

PANDORA SALUTES the Ministry of Defence who appear to have made the most dramatic expenditure saving in history. In 1998/97 the department spent £481.383 on public opinion surveys. But according to a parliamentary answer given late last week, in 1997/98 the department spent only the princely sum of 5p on opinion polls. Pandora would appreciate the name of their accountant.

NEWS REACHES Pandora of the actress Sophia Loren doing a Delia. The screen goddess has just launched her own cookbook - *Sophia Loren's Recipes and Memories*. While she does not advise on how to boil an egg, she does tell aspiring cooks about her first communion service, at the age of nine. The service was marred by wartime aerial bombings interrupting the ceremony. One bomb fell about 300 yards from the church. Defiant Sophia says: "I wasn't particularly foolhardy or courageous, but even in the midst of the bombings I would be anticipating, with all the strength my stomach could muster, the pleasure that eating would bring."

Contact Pandora at: pandora@independent.co.uk

No wonder our children are bonkers



TERENCE BLACKER

The problem lies with adults who express their own anxieties in their attitudes to the young

LAST WEEK'S revelation that our children are suffering from primary-school executive stress, are often weirdly neurotic and are generally going bonkers, should perhaps come as no surprise.

For some time, after all, we've known that more pupils are being excluded from schools than ever before. The rise in juvenile crime has become so severe that a children's prison is now available where 11- and 12-year-olds are put under the care of Group Four security operatives. As for the mental health of our more law-abiding children, a recent survey that put Tim Henman in 11th place in a list of moral and spiritual leaders most respected by 15-year-olds tells its own grim story.

The problem, it need hardly be said, lies not with children, most of whom remain surprisingly sane, but with adults who tend to express their own anxieties in their attitudes towards the young.

The Victorians were classically obsessed with the innocence of childhood and eagerly painted or photographed its naked, prelapsarian purity. More recently, the ideals of the hippie revolution

curdled at the precise point, in the late Sixties, when its leaders became preoccupied with the "liberation" of schoolchildren, while the following decade revealed a sort of guilt-ridden fear of the young, with the new wave of such books and films as *The Exorcist*, *Flowers in the Attic* and *The Shining*. Elements of all these neuroses are evident today - for example, in

the unhealthy media interest in paedophilia and in the peculiar public rage shown against young offenders - but a contemporary gloss has been added. According to last week's report, from the Mental Health Foundation, children are increasingly perceived either as "evil demons" or, on the other hand, as "designer accessories or pets".

In other words, now that we not only compete for better salaries but also like to show a healthy profit in our caring, emotional lives, the need to be seen as a successful parent has become central. Children have become little ambassadors for their proud, boastful parents.

But to raise these acceptably dynamic yet well-mannered children, who pass all the right exams and get into the right schools, requires money, effort and anxiety from middle-class parents in the private system. Ruminously expensive nursery schools employ a head of studies who solemnly reports to parents on the academic progress of their four-year-olds. Teachers in private and public sectors are under unprecedented pressure from the more ambitious parents to push

their progeny up out of the much-feared average-ability band.

Oddly, these attitudes seem to have infected the educational system as a whole. The national curriculum has radically reduced the time pupils spend playing or in lessons now deemed less important (music or drama, for example) in favour of yet another exam-gear lesson in literacy or arithmetic. In our eagerness to turn our children into respectable, upwardly mobile mini-adults, we are squeezing out the very moments of leisure, freedom and exploration that would provide them with the self-sufficiency and emotional resources they need to survive in an absurdly stressful world. The much-vaunted caring society is in too much of a hurry to allow children to develop at their own pace.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the scale, parents who have discovered that their children are neither pets nor accessories but are every bit as inconveniently imperfect as any adult express the new spirit of selfishness not in over-competitiveness but with neglect - passing on an inheritance of despair and

cynicism. No wonder the next generation is going off the rails.

Judging by figures published by the Children's Society, the situation of young people in Britain is one of deep crisis. There has been a 450 per cent increase in permanent exclusions from school since 1990. The number of 15- and 16-year-olds in custody rose by 72 per cent in the three years before 1995. We imprison more young people than any other country in the European community - 5,300 a year compared to 16 in Denmark and 25 in Portugal. An average of 100 children run away from home every day.

Nor should those who point to the success of that nice Tim Henman in the survey of moral role models be too smug; a recent report into teenage language has revealed that the distrust of 13-year-olds of anyone who does not conform to generally accepted norms of clean-cut looks and conventional behaviour is part of a deep and often violent sexual or racial prejudice. The reason for their closed-mindedness is a profound sense of insecurity.

The mini-adults are coming into their inheritance.

We may need the Americans, but peace will still come



DAVID MCKITTRICK

London, Dublin and Washington could force Trimble and Adams into an accommodation

AS EVERY Irish schoolboy knows, or thinks he knows, Lloyd George threatened Michael Collins with "immediate and terrible war" should the 1921 Anglo-Irish negotiations prove unsuccessful. If the Good Friday agreement unravels over the next few months, few really believe that the same sword of Damocles hovers over everyone's head. Failure is much more likely to lead to confusion than an instantaneous return to full-scale paramilitary battle.

There is little sense that the big battalions are poised and ready to roll if the agreement goes down, but if it does disintegrate, all will be plunged into extremely hazardous free fall. Nowhere on the horizon is there any sign of any credible Plan B: it's the agreement or it's back to the drawing-board.

The mood out there on the streets is complex. Although there is much worry about the fate of the agreement, there is still no great sense of crisis. Seventy-one per cent of voters endorsed the agreement in last year's referendum: if they were really worried, some of them would surely be making their anxious voices heard, out on the streets or in other ways. But they're not, and that's probably because, as Mo Mowlam told David Frost the other day, they can think different things at the same time. Nobody can see how to solve the decommissioning conundrum, yet at the same time few really believe that the peace process is about to end.

This is partly complacency, and partly a slightly irrational sense that something has come so far and achieved so much could not simply implode now, when a new cross-community government is within grasp. Yet complacency is not so far from optimism, and it really does seem to be the case that North-

ern Ireland, after all the years of gloom and pessimism, is now displaying an unprecedented amount of underlying optimism and faith in the future. This is despite all the political alarms and excursions, all the confrontational rhetoric, the loyalist arson attacks and the persistence of the kneecappings and beatings.

The recent concentration on the "punishment" attacks has given many the impression that overall violence is as bad as ever. This is misleading. Since the Omagh bombing last August, three people have been killed - two by loyalists and one by republicans. On a human level this represents three tragedies: three families plunged into grief, three question marks over peace. But on a statistical level, it represents possibly the most pacific period that Northern Ireland has enjoyed in more than three decades.

Although the major groups are certainly involved in illegalities, such as "punishment" assaults, they show no appetite for a return to war on the old model. Speaking recently of the peace process, a senior republican figure said: "We have made life decisions - this leadership of Sinn Féin made life decisions in going down this path."

A similar attitude is evident on the loyalist side, where most leadership figures give no sign of seeking a way back to war. There are, however, elements on both the republican and loyalist sides who are attempting to restart the conflict, and are regrouping themselves into new organisations. While some of these have the capacity to do real damage, they are microscopic in comparison with the bigger groups. They are splinters from splinters, their membership measured in dozens rather than thousands, out of step not just with the general public but also with the paramilitary mainstream.

As ever in Northern Ireland, different psychologies can be seen at work on the Protestant and Catholic sides. Nationalists can be heard worrying that even after the Good Friday agreement, Unionists are showing they have a veto on many aspects of the process. David Trimble, as first minister designate, has deliberately played it long, imposing his own pace on the process and reducing its momentum to a crawl in a way that has produced much frustration among other players. At the same time he has also scored that rarest of things, a Unionist PR victory in putting republicans on the back foot on decommissioning and punishment attacks.

On the Unionist side, the decommissioning debate fulfils several functions. Though Mr Trimble did not manage to have it inserted in the Good Friday agreement as a precondition, he has since emerged as its most vociferous champion. In doing so he has snatched away some of the initiative previously held by the anti-agreement Unionist camp, and in one sense has



Sen George Mitchell, left, with David Trimble Brian Little/PA

blurred the lines between pro- and anti-agreement Unionists.

Some of those insisting on decommissioning hope that it will be achieved and quietly look forward to the day when everybody, including Sinn Féin, will sit together in an executive. Others in the camp, though, want to use it as a weapon to keep Sinn Féin out, while some hope that it will wreck the whole process. Then again, some of the anti-agreement Unionists have come to love the new assembly, and want to see the continuation of the assembly and the new status and salaries it has bestowed on them.

As so often in the Middle East, and presently in Kosovo, situations such as this can drag on interminably, generally deteriorating as time passes unless matters are deliberately brought to a head. In Belfast, a decision has now been reached that only a highly intensive negotiation will sort things out, and that a political pressure-cooker is therefore under construction.

Mo Mowlam has said that by 10 March, all will be ready to devolve

real power to the assembly, and although this is officially a target date, it is fast turning into a deadline. The scene is thus set for a re-creation of the talks that culminated on Good Friday, with exhausting all-night sessions following which politicians emerged into the spring sunlight, pale and drawn, to announce that an acceptable compromise has been hammered out.

It was suggested yesterday that the former US Senator, George Mitchell, who chaired some of the last bout, might return to Belfast again. His reappearance would signify the reinvigoration of Bill Clinton. The theory is that with London, Dublin and Washington breathing down their necks, both David Trimble and Gerry Adams would be forced into an accommodation.

What Lloyd George in fact said in 1921 was: "We must give your answer by 10pm tonight. You can have until then - but no longer - to decide whether you will give peace or war to your country." The hope in 1999 is that republican and unionist will choose peace.

The perils of digging up our ancestors



PODIUM

HEDLEY SWAIN
From a lecture by the
head of the early
collections department,
delivered at the
Museum of London

IT HAS been estimated that, between 1600 and 1900, 6 million individuals were buried in London. We can add to this an unknown number dating back to the Roman foundation of the City in about AD50. Through archaeological excavation, the remains of about 6,500 of those individuals have found their way into the care of the Museum of London. London is one of the most heavily excavated cities in the world. This is because of its great size and antiquity, and the continuing demand for development.

It is now almost unknown in Britain for archaeologists to choose to excavate human remains. Too much archaeology is being destroyed; there are too few archaeologists and too little money to allow us to decide where to dig; we principally react to sites threatened with destruction.

Under the 1857 Burial Act it is illegal to disinter a body without lawful authority. This authority comes in the form of a licence from the Secretary of State at the Home Office. Permission to disturb bodies buried in consecrated ground must come from the Church.

There is now a large and detailed literature on the ethics of excavating, curating and displaying human remains. However, it has to be said that this deals almost entirely with foreign cultures and religions. Concerns about the ethics of excavating earlier generations of Britons, once you are beyond those who may have living relatives, are less clear-cut. It has been noted that "British attitudes to dead bodies are ambivalent, contradictory and volatile". One reason for this is that Christian faith does not have strong views on the sanctity of the dead.

Archaeologists are very conscious of the dangers involved in their work. Many precautions are taken. Diseases to watch include tetanus and Weil's disease.

However, there are a number of extra dangers that are specifically associated with excavating human remains. There is a risk of catching the diseases that caused the death of the body, only if any of the soft tissue survives; this is likely following more modern burials only where wood, or more probably lead, coffins have been used. Two diseases

are a risk - anthrax and smallpox. Anthrax is rare in Britain, but can be fatal if not treated promptly. It is a spore-forming bacillus, which is reported to be able to survive for at least 50 to 100 years.

Smallpox killed and scarred its victims for thousands of years. It is now officially eradicated from the world, making the threat of contamination from bodies all the more serious. In 18th-century London

about one in ten adult and one in three child deaths were from smallpox, so any excavation of burials from that period is bound to deal with victims.

Can the virus survive for long periods? We simply do not know. However, unlikely it may be, the risk is still there.

London has been occupied as an urban space for almost 2,000 years with only a very short gap during the early Saxon period. There are a lot of dead Londoners lying below our streets.

The distribution of burials reflects the growth of the urban centre. We have very few burials from prehistoric and Saxon times - this is because there was only a small, non-urban, population in the London area, with no concentrations of population. Roman law did not allow for the burial of the dead within city boundaries. It was also normal for cemeteries to flank the main roads leaving a city, and indeed this is what we find in London.

In 1348, London was struck by the Black Death, which led to the need for emergency burial provision. One estimate suggests that 500,000 Londoners died. This is probably an

overestimate, but figures would have been high. Clearly the existing cemeteries could not cope, and new emergency provision was made.

In 1905 a mass grave was uncovered on the site of the Grey Friars priory, north of St Paul's, with several hundred burials. There are records that another site of 13 acres was purchased for the same purpose near Smithfield.

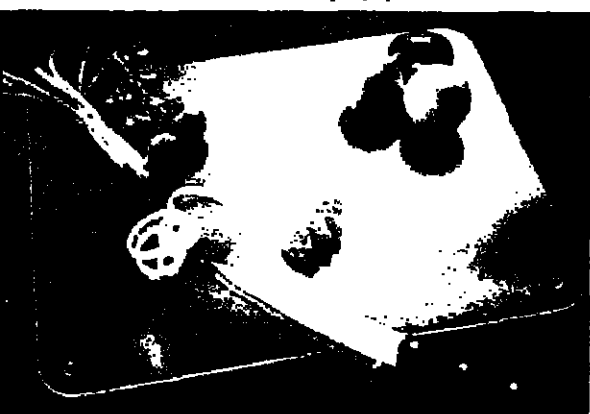
By the 17th century, London's church cemeteries were becoming overcrowded. There was often no room for expansion close to the church, so new cemeteries were established on the edge of built-up areas.

Between 1837 and 1841 the government authorised the building of seven commercial cemeteries. The most famous of these were Highgate, Kensal Green and Nunhead.

As long as development continues in London there will be pressure on land and the need to move the last resting-place of some of our ancestors. Archaeologists will continue to offer an option for their removal, which will contribute to our knowledge about this important aspect of life in the past.

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Farewell to the old factories



HAMISH MCRAE

Production lines have dominated this century, but they won't dominate the 21st century

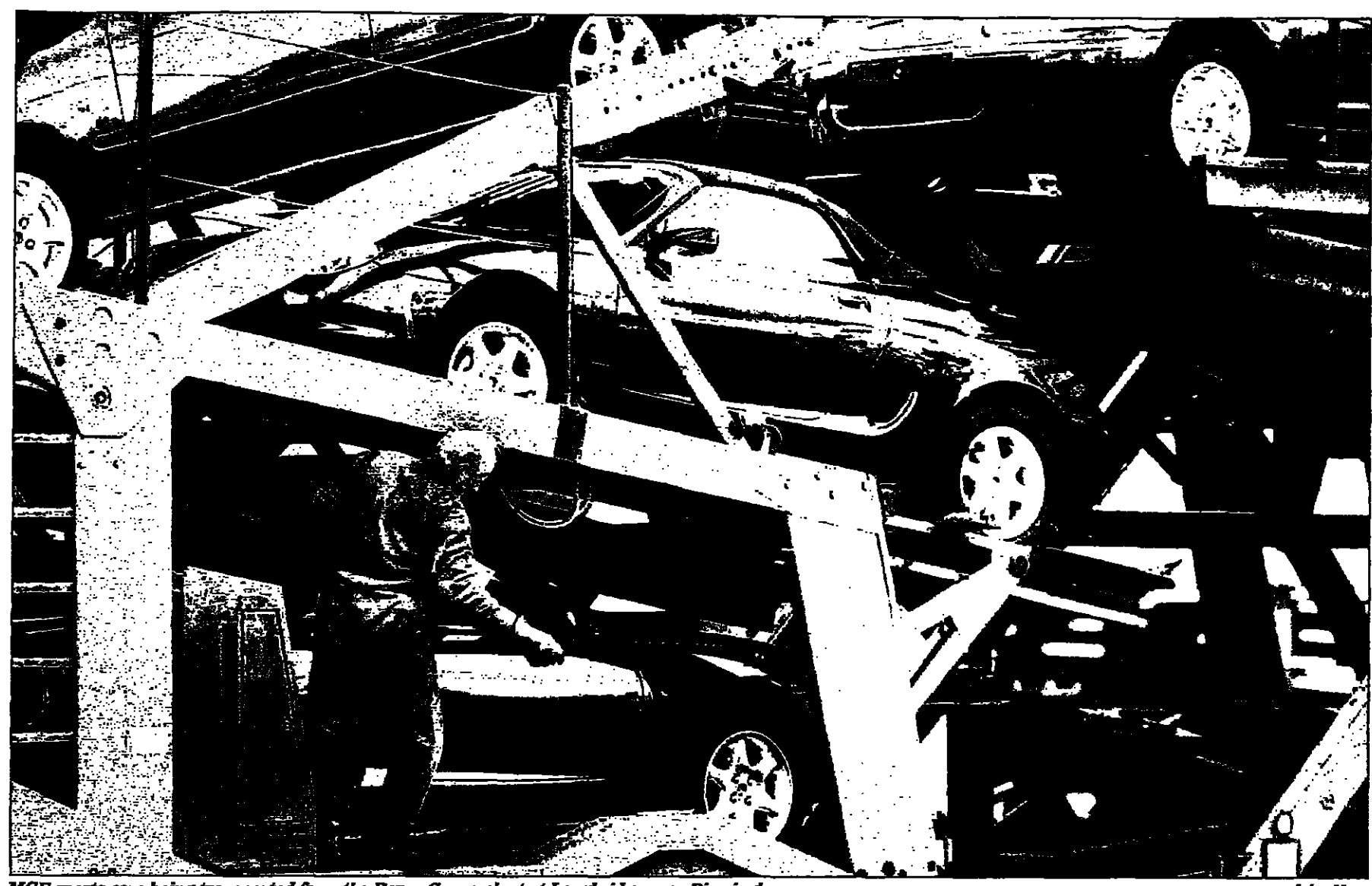
ANYONE CONTEMPLATING the plight of Rover should get the bad news out of the way first. Rover has to face three harsh realities. The first is that there is around 40 per cent over-capacity in European car production. The second is that the UK does not have any evident comparative advantage in mass production of consumer durables, including cars. And the third is that a management team probably better suited to the task of rescuing Rover than any other in the world has so far failed to revive it.

Now three bits of good news. This is not a re-run of the "Red Robbo", Austin Allegro, mass picketing mayhem of the Seventies. Nor is the future of the motor industry any longer so crucial to the future of the British economy. And there are corners of the British car industry that have a fascinating potential in the next century.

The negatives have been widely aired. Manufacturing cars has been the most important industry this century, but now it is a mature one. In the developed world, the market is a replacement one; it is no longer growing. As the quality of cars improves, the need to buy new ones diminishes, and as new industrial nations with low labour costs enter the market, the global supply rises. The resulting over-capacity has to be taken out somewhere.

Some will come out here in Britain. The UK is by no means a bad place to build cars. As Nissan has demonstrated in Sunderland, British workers, properly trained and properly treated, can be as productive as any in the world. But that is in a new plant, with imported skills, and in a part of the country with no tradition of making cars. In the old Austin plant of Longbridge, with a troubled history and lack-lustre products, even a management as flexible, inventive and determined as BMW has found it impossible not to lose a great deal of money.

On the surface there is a sense of déjà vu - as though we are back in the Seventies. The weekend of the boardroom row, resignations, interviews with worried workers, threats to shut Longbridge, calls for government support, and - a nice touch - Dennis Skinner calling for the company to be nationalised.



MGF sports cars being transported from the Rover Group plant at Longbridge near Birmingham

John Voos

The reality, mercifully, is very different. This issue now is not what to do with a strike-ridden catastrophe, but rather how to manage a further downsizing of part of an industry in a civilised way. Change is inevitably painful: decent people end up being hurt, and the shockwaves extend far beyond the direct employees to entire communities.

So the more cleverly change is managed, the smaller the number of casualties and the less extensive the collateral damage. If that means taking money from British taxpayers and giving it to the Quant family in Bavaria (the principal owners of BMW) to bribe them to keep some production going in Longbridge, then so be it. But we should not kid ourselves that this is the best future for the British economy. That future lies elsewhere.

But where? You have to start with the question - what can we do in this country that gives us a comparative advantage over other people in other countries?

Objectively there are several areas where there is a measured advantage: in pharmaceuticals, financial services, media and entertainment, miscellaneous high technology products, and so on. There is one well-known example

in the motor trade: racing cars. The majority of the world's Formula One cars are made here in Britain because the cluster of skills needed to make them happens to have developed here. Two particular qualities - creativity and craftsmanship - happen to abound in the UK, and in industries which require these, it is possible to dominate the world market.

Sub-pockets of these craft-based motor manufacturing businesses keep developing into something more. Mayflower has made a success of producing bodies for the new MGF and the new Rolls-Royce. The newest potential business, for those interested in such things, is sticking powerful motorcycle engines into snazzy two-seater sports-car bodies to create a new generation of minibuses.

The craft element in manufacturing - in retreat for two generations - is again becoming significant. We tend to forget that until Henry Ford invented the production line, most manufacturing was craft-based. There were factories for textiles, but in the last century most of the products of the industrial revolution were made individually. Ships were one-offs, each different from the one before.

Railway engines were made in batches. The earliest cars were made in batches, largely by hand.

Today, this way of organising production continues in a few industries: for example, large aircraft engines and the aircraft themselves. Aircraft production can be quite highly automated, but it is qualitatively different from the sort of production line that produces, say, a TV set. The motor car is interesting because it is the most complicated product in the world built on a production line. It is, so to speak, at the top of that chain.

Now ponder this proposition: production lines will become less important. They dominated the 20th century, but they will not dominate the 21st to anything like the same extent.

There are a number of reasons to support this view. First, manufacturing as a whole is accounting for a smaller and smaller proportion of the economy of developed nations, for as we get richer we tend to spend a higher proportion of our income on services rather than goods. True, services are now being manufactured in ways that would have seemed odd even 10 years ago - think of call centres and dealing rooms as factories producing

services. But though a call centre is a factory of sorts, it is not a production line; each person is doing an individual one-to-one job.

Second, when we buy goods, even if they are mass-produced, the numbers of people employed on the production lines to make them has come down to perhaps a quarter of the level of 25 years ago, and will fall further. Go round a modern car factory and there will be hardly anyone on the line: only if something goes wrong so people jump out and fix the automated machine that has developed the fault.

Third, as societies become richer, more and more people will be prepared to pay for something that is individually-made, rather than stamped out on a production line. We cannot all afford handmade products (and with cars there are not many of them around). But anyone who chooses to run an older classic car rather than a modern buzz-box is essentially paying for the craft skills to keep it running rather than the production line skills to build the new alternative.

I am not, of course, suggesting that Longbridge's future lies in turning itself into a classic car re-conditioning factory - though the government would be wise to look

at the total employment in the classic-car industry and see this as a point of potential growth.

What I am saying is that being good at mass manufacturing is not as important an aspect of economic success as it used to be. If you are wonderful at making cars, as Germany is, that is great. Germany has become the world's largest exporter largely on the back of success in one industry. It has the agglomeration of design and management skills that enables it to charge a premium price for its products and so overcome the handicap of high labour costs.

We do not have that advantage and accordingly have to be subcontractors to Germany and to other nations. But being good at a mature industry, probably a shrinking one, is not a particularly profitable part of the commercial forest to occupy. The important thing to do is to occupy the portions of the forest that will grow. Most of these are outside manufacturing, but one that is within it - craft manufacturing - seems to be one where we are in with a good chance. The one element of the global motor industry that is craft-dominated, racing cars, we dominate. There will be others in the years ahead.

RIGHT OF REPLY

NICOLAS WALTER



A director of the Rationalist Press Association responds to Paul Valley's recent articles about atheism

PAUL VALLEY includes in his criticisms of the views of non-religious people such as Ludovic Kennedy (daily book review, 3 February) and myself ("An organised faith in humanity", 30 January) the questionable statements that "human beings are hard-wired for religion as they are for language and music" and that "biogenetic structuralism now suggests that human beings are genetically programmed for music, language, dance - and religion".

What is the evidence? Has anyone actually discovered a "hard wire" or gene for religion? Even if almost all of us are programmed for language, and most of us for music and perhaps dance, are any of us programmed for religion? Even if most people in most places at most times seem to have supernatural and superstitious views, must all people in all places at all times therefore do so?

Even if everyone were religious, would this mean that religion is true, in any normal sense of the word? Many people believe in witches or ghosts, astrology or telepathy, reincarnation or resurrection, but does this mean that such beliefs are true in any sense at all? Even if religious people are happier and healthier, does this make them right?

What about the large and growing number of people who don't have any kind of supernatural or superstitious beliefs, and do quite well without them? Are we somehow genetically defective - spiritually tone-deaf or colour-blind, as it were?

Or rather, since we no longer hear imaginary voices or see imaginary visions, do we perhaps belong to the next stage in human evolution? Are we intellectually or morally inferior in any way to religious people, or are we actually superior?

The street smell of success

CHARLES BUKOWSKI was the mesmerisingly ugly poet of downtown Los Angeles with a legendary appetite for drinking and sex with crazy women. He was the apotheosis of the cult writer, the longest-serving American street poet and boozing bum, who died in 1994 aged 73. His work, in poems, stories and novels, is published almost exclusively by the Black Sparrow Press in California, in handsome and expensive volumes.

Bukowski's tone is caught in a poem called "as crazy as I ever was" from his mid-Seventies collection *Love Is A Dog From Hell*. It's about being unchanged by his cult status: "The feeling is the same/ relentless/ unheroic and/ necessary/ sitting here/ drunk and writing poems/ at 3:24 a.m." In fact, the fame that came in the last 10 years of his life - including the



TUESDAY BOOK

CHARLES BUKOWSKI: LOCKED IN THE ARMS OF A CRAZY LIFE
BY HOWARD SOUNES, REBEL INC, £15.99

biographical movie *Barfly*, in which he was played by Mickey Rourke - changed a lot, but he meant that it changed nothing important. Ultimately, Bukowski was a poet of small things, the small necessary things that kept him alive and working.

Biographers of Bukowski face a peculiar problem, because most of their readers will be his readers. They will already know his life story. They will have encountered it in his strange, affecting prose, which is direct and

spare as well as romantic and self-mythologising.

In novels such as *Post Office* and *Fachotum*, he straightforwardly recounts a life of writing in between desperate jobs - sorting mail on night shifts or being a bar-room "gofer" - and the many women with whom he had lusty, violent and loving relationships. His biographer must rework the same material as in those books.

However, Bukowski was primarily a poet. All his writing is versified into very short and unadorned lines or sentences. The titles of his 40-odd books tell much of the story: *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, *The Days Run Away Like Wild Horses over the Hills*, *You Get So Alone at Times That It Just Makes Sense* or *Notes of a Dirty Old Man*. In a poem called *How to Be a Great Writer*, he names some of his inspirations (Gleningway Colbie, Dosztoevsky and Hamann) and advises "always be aware of the possibility of total defeat/ whether the reason for that defeat/ seems right or wrong". He described the simple vitality of his work to a biographer like this: "Writing has to be blood on the line."

Howard Sounes set out to write a definitive biography of Bukowski without ever encountering him. He has interviewed widely and had access to previously unseen archives. New facts prick several myths. One important discovery is the truth about his escape from the postal service to write full-time at the age of 50.

He struck a famous deal with John Martin - founder of Black Sparrow Press - who guaranteed to pay his



Charles Bukowski, the 'mesmerisingly ugly poet'

EPA

living expenses for life in exchange for the rights to all his work. Sounes reveals that Bukowski knew he was about to be fired and so, ironically, was even more desperate than he ever revealed. However, within a month of "quitting" he had completed a draft of his first novel, *Post Office*, and the rest is, well, biography.

Sounes writes that, despite the acknowledged influence of John Fante's seminal novel, *Ask the Dust*, "Bukowski stands alone in modern American literature, unclassifiable and much imitated". He adds that Bukowski wrote about the everyday lives of "less successful Americans living in cheap apartments and working at menial jobs", recognising that "human lives are often wretched" but that "life can also be beautiful, sexy and funny". All of this is true but does not quite get to the heart of it.

The core of Bukowski's writing is its articulation of almost complete disaffection and its dismissal of conventional life: the acceptance of so little by so many. Bukowski doesn't

condemn anyone except "phonies", but he refuses to ransom his life to a stifling, homogenous world and so he finds a way to exist among its refuse. It's a place where life has become elemental, where continuing with it is not taken for granted but rebuilt from nothing.

Bukowski's voice is insistent and affirming but it also has the humble durability of someone who won't stay down. Here - at the extremity of things, amid bruising lust and messy human loss - the value of his work lies. The man who emerges from Sounes's work is one who shamelessly pursued his needs for beer, women and recognition - a man capable of tenderness, who always paid child support for his daughter and who resisted the seductions of belated, relished fame. This biography is an affectionate and thorough introduction that will not be rivalled for quite some time. Its effect is to revitalise rather than reduce Bukowski's work: poems and stories that help keep people alive.

GUY MANNES-ABBOTT

TUESDAY POEM

MIDDLE AGE
BY ROBERT WELLS

The temples, lakes and islands; rooms and roads:
When we go wandering, soon there's too much
To gather into consequence. Our touch
Has brushed too many stones; too many gods
Have played the host to us and had their claim
Shrugged off. Old pockets, worn-out wallets keep
The bills and tickets. In a drawer, a heap
Of shells recalls a place, perhaps a name.

Youth's body, like a broken statue, lies
Deep-buried with the meaning that it gave.
We cast about for something we can save
By which to save ourselves; more blank than wise
For all the miles that brought us to this ground,
Still ignorant of where value can be found.

This poem comes from Robert Wells's new collection, *Lusus* (Carcanet, £5.95)

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John Gay

JOHN GAY, photographer of railway stations, graveyards, cast iron, cats, and much more, died in his 90th year while doing the work he loved most: tending the grounds of Highgate Cemetery. In his later years he had also become a skilled potter and his work is much prized.

He was born Hans Gohler into a large family in Karlsruhe in 1909, and became interested in photography when he left school. He attended art school in Paris and worked as a photographer on returning to Germany. In the early Thirties he became aware of, and increasingly disliked, the rise of Hitler's influence, and was horrified by the treatment of his several Jewish friends, although not Jewish himself. In 1933 a friend, young Walther Stern, and his parents decided to flee to Britain, and Hans left his own family to accompany them. They settled in Halifax in Yorkshire, the Sterns became his "adoptive family", and Hans found work as a photographer.

In 1939 he joined the Pioneer Corps and served with them throughout the war. He could be very entertaining with his stories of army ways and customs - an attitude which undoubtedly contributed to his adoption of a British way of life, and which jibed with his adoption of the name John Gay, of *Beggar's Opera* fame.

Before the war his photographic work had been largely commercial, but his love of nature and the countryside was an influence from the beginning, and whenever he could he widened his field, significantly in the direction of architecture. After his marriage in 1942 to Marie Arnheim, who had come to England from Berlin in 1936 - he settled in London, in Highgate, moving in 1951 to the house where he spent the rest of his life.

His professional work covered, on the one hand, such firms as Kossett Carpets (many wonderful pictures of cats) and various pet food companies and, on the other, the portrayal of literary personalities for the *Strand Magazine* and landscapes and buildings for *Country Fair*. Four of his portraits - Hilare Belloc, Walter de la Mare, TS Eliot and John Masefield - are in the National Portrait Gallery's Primary Collection, and many more in his archive.

John Gay's best photographic work was true art in that it was not

done to order, but became part of his life, to be recorded at the right moment when scene, light and angle all came together to form a composition that would satisfy his perfectionist nature. He worked entirely in black and white, and his contrasting tones can tell the viewer so much more than the mere elements within each picture, splendid though they may be. His work is preserved in six books.

The earliest, *London Observed* (1964), with commentary by Macdonald Hastings, now seems like an essay in nostalgia. *Prospect of Highgate and Hampstead* (1967) followed, with Leonard Clark (the children's writer and a Highgate neighbour) and a preface by John Betjeman. Both established him as an architectural and landscape photographer of

'His eye was his lens, his camera an extension of himself. He was always a part of the photographs he was taking'

imagination and ingenuity. In 1972, with John Betjeman, he published *London's Historic Railway Stations* - images of Victorian detail and of soaring train-shed roofs that remain long in the memory. The delightful *John Gay's Book of Cats* (1975) followed, and then his best-known *Highgate Cemetery* (1984) and, perhaps his finest, *Cast Iron* (1985).

John R. Murray, of his principal publisher John Murray, comments, "His eye was his lens and his camera an extension of himself... he was always a part of the photographs he was taking and not apart from them... He saw black and white as the medium he preferred and managed to achieve contrast and mood that I have never seen equalled in colour."

Gay's love of gardening went back to his childhood when he helped his mother in her garden in Karlsruhe, and was fostered, after



Paddington Station from London's Historic Railway Stations, by Gay and John Betjeman, 1972

he came to England, by an "adoptive uncle", an academic botanist. It came to fruition in his association with Highgate Cemetery continuously from the early days of its reclamation from wartime neglect. He went there every weekend as part of a team that tidied and chopped, and gradually produced order out of chaos.

His special contribution was in the planting of woodland flowers: rushes and ferns, snowdrops and bluebells; primroses, cowslips and oxalis; all were transplanted, often grown from seed and carefully tended at home until ready for the wild. Trees he loved, and he had a wonderful instinct for what a colleague termed "woodland management". His own garden was full of interesting plants and imaginative plantings; and was, at one time, opened annually to the public.

His love of gardening led him to the Harrington Scheme (a demonstration

plot in Highgate where young people with learning disabilities are taught gardening), which he helped to initiate; and his interest in his surroundings led him to the Highgate Society, of which he and Marie were founder members. She, too, had trained as an artist, and when he took up pottery, she took up fabric printing. They both drew, and even had life-drawing groups in their house.

Gay's technical and historical knowledge of pottery, particularly of glazes, allied to his practical skills, gave his work a freshness and interest in colour and form that attracted collectors from far beyond the bounds of Highgate. It became a notable feature of the craft fairs that he and Marie helped to organise for the Highgate Society.

Like many perfectionists John Gay was uncompromising in his views but extraordinarily generous

with his talents. He was a modest and private person who delighted in helping others: whether feeding an absent neighbour's cats, cutting out dead wood from an overgrown shrub or photographing a local event.

His own house was a veritable cultural haven. Music, pictures, pottery, books and good wine were important to him; and he extracted the best elements from the century that his amazing life nearly spanned. The work he has left behind - photographs, pots, contributions to gardens and to the urban scene - will remain a fine record of a life devoted to art in so many of its manifestations.

LIVIA GOLLANZ

Hans Gohler (John Gay), photographer and potter, born Karlsruhe, Germany 2 September 1909; married 1942 Marie Arnheim; died London 24 January 1999.

Marion Boyars

MARION BOYARS came into publishing at the end of the Fifties, having taken a degree at the new experimental Keele University, largely to escape the life of a bored housewife in Shrewsbury, where her husband was an industrialist manufacturing ladies' underwear. She answered my advertisement in the *Bookseller* looking for a partner in what was then a nearly 10-year-old small publishing company called John Calder. After working as a volunteer for two years she decided, against the advice of her financial adviser, to invest and bought a partnership, bringing her accountant in with her as director.

It was a time when the company was moving from political publishing into literature and had taken on Samuel Beckett, the *nouveau roman*, and several experimental British writers. The *Obscene Publications Act* of 1959, swiftly followed by the *Lady Chatterley* trial, had made it worth the risk of publishing much frank and libertine literature that was previously prosecutable - providing eminent and informed witnesses could be persuaded to testify in the event of a trial. In addition, more liberal attitudes in America and Europe were becoming reflected in greater British tolerance, leading to a series of permissive reforms in the law.

In 1963 John Calder published Henry Miller's long-banned *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn* in 1964, the same year that Marion Boyars asked for the company's name to be changed to Calder and Boyars. The public expectation of another prosecution like the *Lady Chatterley* case was frustrated by subtle legal manoeuvring, and other potentially dangerous books such as Alexander Trocchi's *Cash's Book* (1966) followed under the new imprint.

A string of best-sellers radically changed the company into a successful, medium-sized publisher, and the highbrow quality of a large proportion of its authors, many translated from other languages, gave it considerable international cachet. Longer-established publishers such as Collins and Jonathan Cape began to publish more intellectual European fiction in imitation, and, being as a result less isolated, Calder and Boyars found that slow-selling prestigious literature did much better, achieving major reviews and bigger sales.

The tide turned when, in 1966, the Director of Public Prosecutions, provoked by a few ultra-Conservative MPs and in particular a private prosecution brought by Sir Cyril Black against an American Calder and Boyars novel, *Lost Exit* to Brooklyn by Hubert Selby, decided to prosecute Calder and Boyars in the High Court.

There followed nearly two years of difficulty with Patrick (now Lord) Neill defending the Selby novel at the Old Bailey, losing to a jury decision in spite of a judge believed to be favourable to the defence. John Mortimer, a barrister who was also a novelist and playwright, and who had usually until then specialised in marital law, agreed to fight an appeal, and in 1968 won. Thereafter he was inundated with other obscenity cases to defend.

Marion Boyars found herself thrown into the maelstrom of the Sixties with some discomfort, but quickly adapted to the challenge of the times. She took part in the radicalism of the prevailing climate, became known as a feminist, and brought the books and educational ideas of Ivan Illich into the list which, although their popularity was short-lived, were much in vogue during the days of student protest and the demands of classless youth for better lives and a bigger slice of the cake.

She expanded the sociological aspects of the publishing pro-

gramme and found new authors, in particular for social studies, biography and literary criticism, while her second husband, Arthur Boyars, helped her with musical titles, his special interest. In 1975 Marion Boyars decided that she would rather be captain of her own ship and the partnership was amicably dissolved, each partner going back to their old name.

Thereafter she published as Marion Boyars Ltd. Having half the old back-list, now numbering some thousands of titles - Peter du Sautoy, former chairman of Faber, adjudicated the break-up - she continued to take on new authors (including Pauline Kael, Ken Kesey, Michael Ondaatje, Robert Heilbroner, Charles Marowitz, Julien Green, Eudora Welty) and expand her list, but with no great change of emphasis. The difficulties of running an independent publishing company at a time of corporate mergers and take-overs, however, with the globalisation of the industry reducing the number of imprints with an individual character, inevitably reduced her visibility and scope.

Marion was the daughter of a German publisher, Walther Asmus, who was unable to save her Jewish mother from arrest by the Nazis; she died in Auschwitz. She and her sister were sent to America via Switzerland, and it was in America that she met George Lobbenberg, who was to become her first husband. After the break-up of that marriage and her entry into publishing she met and married Arthur Boyars, who had been a member of the Tynan-Welton circle at Oxford, where he had edited a literary magazine, *Mandrake*, that published them all and much else.

Arthur was a poet and a literary journalist when he met her, often forced by circumstances into commercial activities and, being a widely read polymath who would



Independent publishing

have made an excellent Oxford don, he helped to expand Marion's horizons. Marion had a strong commercial instinct and was a good businesswoman who might have known greater financial success had she entered a firm of a more general and less literary character. Indeed it was the conviction that her business sense was stronger than her partner's that played a major part in her decision to become independent.

Marion Boyars enjoyed entertaining and the social mixing which is a necessary part of a publisher's life. Her knowledge of German contributed to her acquiring many German authors, but she also published Russian poets like Yevushenko, musical theorists such as John Cage and Stockhausen and literary novelists and playwrights from France, Poland and, of course, English-speaking countries.

JOHN CALDER

Marion Asmus, publisher: born Hamburg, Germany 26 October 1927; married first George Lobbenberg (marriage dissolved; two daughters), second Arthur Boyars; died London 31 January 1999.

Raymond Wolansky

THE BARITONE Raymond Wolansky was one of those American singers who came to Germany in the 1950s in search of fame and fortune. Many, having gained experience, went back to the United States; Wolansky stayed for the rest of his life.

Although he returned to America during those years, most particularly to San Francisco, the Wurttemberg State Opera in Stuttgart was his home base during almost his entire singing career. He appeared frequently in Hamburg and other German cities, as well as at Glyndebourne, Edinburgh and Covent Garden. His voice, at first a lush, light baritone, grew stronger and darker over the years, but it retained an amazingly youthful timbre up to - and beyond - his retirement.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1926, Wolansky studied in that city, and in Boston, before taking the well-worn route to Europe. He sang in Lucerne and Graz, then in 1958 he became a



Strong, dark baritone

member of the Wurttemberg State Opera, Stuttgart, where ensemble of singers was legendary at that time. Apart from three seasons in the late 1960s, he remained with the company until 1991.

He soon acquired a wide repertoire, ranging from Gluck and Mozart to Richard Strauss, Britten, Hans Werner Henze and Arribert Reimann. His type of voice, which in Germany is called a *Kavaliersbariton*, was not in the earlier days suitable for the heavier Verdi or Puccini roles, though he tackled both Renato in *Un ballo in maschera* and Marcello in *La Bohème*; he had a great natural aptitude for modern music, and faced the Burgundian Troubadour in Orff's *Carmine Burana*, or Major Mary in Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten*, with perfect equanimity.

In 1963 he came to Glyndebourne to sing Olivier: the poet in Strauss's *Capriccio*, which he repeated the following year. Other Strauss roles in his repertoire included Fainal in *Der Rosenkavalier*, John the Baptist in *Salome*, and Mandryka in *Arabella*. In 1964 he made his debut in San Francisco as Count Luna in *Il trovatore*. Over the next few seasons

there, to demonstrate his versatility he also sang Ping in *Turandot*, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Colonel Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Riccardo in Bellini's *Puritani* and Manfred in Montemuzzi's *L'amore di tre re*, as well as his showpiece role in *Carmine Burana*.

Since 1960 Wolansky was a regular guest artist at the Hamburg State Opera. During 1970 he took part in two world premieres there: in January he sang the chief role, Pestilence, in Mikko Kelemen's *Der Belagerungsstand*, an adaptation of Albert Camus' play *The Siege Situation*; and in June he was Urnmuru in Ernst Krenek's *Das kommt davon*, a modern version of Costi fan tutte set partly in the South Seas. Returning to San Francisco, in 1972, Wolansky took the part of Alfred III in the American premiere of Gottfried von Einem's *Der Besuch der Alten Dame*, adapted from Dürrenmatt's play *The Visit of the Old Lady*.

Wolansky made his only appearance at Covent Garden in 1973, as Mandryka in *Arabella*, a part that fitted him like a glove, both musically and dramatically. In Stuttgart towards the end of the 1970s he began to take on heavier roles: as Kurwenal in *Tristan and Isolde*, which was greatly admired, and two of Verdi's heaviest baritone roles, Rigoletto and Simon Boccanegra, of which the latter brought him one of the biggest triumphs of his career.

Even after retiring in 1991 Wolansky continued to appear in character roles such as the Old Convict in Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*. He made his final appearance at the age of 70, in March 1996, as Fritz Kottner the Baker in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

ELIZABETH FORBES

Raymond Wolansky, opera singer: born Cleveland, Ohio 15 February 1926; died Stuttgart, Germany 1 December 1998.

Khin Myo Chit

FOLLOWING THE 1962 military coup in Burma by the army chief General Ne Win, Khin Myo Chit became an editor of the new government newspaper published in English, *The Working People's Daily*.

But it was in this job that she incurred Ne Win's wrath with her increasingly outspoken criticism of the repressive socialist regime and its propaganda methods. Her article "Dandruff in my Halo", on 21 July 1966, was the final straw. In it, she described how friends would praise her for being prepared to visit political prisoners on their release from jail, and for not being scared that "They" - Military Intelligence or MI - would assume guilt by association. That experience aside, her refusal to be cowed endured until her death. She was one of the few Burmese brave enough to play host to the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, an old family friend,

after her release from house arrest in 1995. (The latter's own article "Freedom from Fear" echoes sentiments in "Dandruff".) She continued to write short stories and articles after her dismissal. Her story "Infinite Variety" won first prize in 1970 in a South-East Asia competition. Many regard her English language writings as more effective than her Burmese ones, and her articles on history and everyday life such as "Colourful Burma" (1990) have been published both inside and outside Burma.

They reflect her wry, mischievous sense of humour. Perhaps it was this which had prompted her to send Ne Win a complimentary copy of a *Wonderland of Burmese Legends* which had been published outside the country (1984). A few days later the MI called at her house and instructed her to await them the following day. An unmarked car duly arrived and she and her husband boarded it with trepidation. An hour of circling Rangoon followed. It was only after they had been reduced to nervous wrecks that it transpired

that the driver was simply killing time until the appointed hour for them to take tea with the dictator. Ne Win greeted them warmly and asked about old friends, before turning to what he considered to be errors in the book.

Khin Myo Chit developed a rebellious streak as a young girl. Her childhood was disrupted by her policeman father's postings around Burma and she tried in vain to win the affection of a mother who preferred her other children to her disappointingly ugly and headstrong eldest daughter. As a result, Khin Myo Chit buried herself in schoolbooks and grew up on a diet of Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare*, Victor Hugo and Dickens, determined to make a career as a bluestocking if she could not be a traditional Burmese beauty, or better still, a boy.

She began to support herself by writing romances and articles, after a first unsuccessful attempt at taking a degree. Ironically her first successful novel was about the life of a female university student, still quite a novelty at the time.

Against her parents' wishes, she moved down to Rangoon in 1937. There she fell in with the Thakins ("Masters"), a group of left-wing, pro-independence activists who included Aung San, who was to become the father both of Burmese independence and of Aung San Suu Kyi. Another member of the group was Ne Win, Burma's authoritarian ruler from 1962 to 1988.

At one point Khin Myo Chit shared a house with Thakin Nu, who, as U Nu, was Burma's first post-independence Prime Minister, and Thakin Than Tun, who later led Burma's Communist insurgency. The latter's questioning of Burma's dependence on Buddhism struck a chord with her own youthful scepticism. Both Thakins encouraged her patriotism and the anti-colonial views which had been ignited by her grandparents' first-hand accounts of the banishment into exile by the British in 1885 of Thibaw, the last Burmese king.

She took part in the anti-government strikes of 1938 and later toured the delta region with U Nu,



Burmese bluestocking

making pro-independence speeches. When the Japanese invaded Burma in 1941, she and her writer husband, Khin Maung Latt, whom she had married at the beginning of the war, took refuge in up-country monasteries. They returned to Rangoon in July 1942. Reluctant to seek favours from their Thakin friends

who, as members of the Burma Independence Army, had been installed in government by the Japanese, they sold slippers for a living.

But eventually they joined the Burma Defence Army and Khin Myo Chit worked in the Women's Section until the end of the war. After the war she returned to writing short stories and articles on Burmese history and culture for magazines. Between 1948 and 1952 she worked for the newly established Burma Translation Society. From 1958 until General Ne Win's 1962 military coup, she was features editor of the English-language *Guardian*.

Despite her staunch opposition to British rule, Khin Myo Chit had many foreign friends and loved English literature. In the 1930s and 1940s she and her husband taught English to students using works such as *King Lear* and Shaw's *Antony and Cleopatra*, drawing out the political parallels as well as the linguistic lessons.

The students enjoyed her tales of the independence movement even if they were astonished by her con-

fession that the 1930s "Freedom Fighters" had begun their secret meetings by standing and singing "God Save the King". This, she stressed, was on the grounds that they made a clear distinction between their sovereign and the government they were seeking to overthrow.

During the "Rangoon Spring" of August 1948, she and her husband, like many others, produced a newspaper with articles on politics and democracy. But 10 years of debilitating and disabling arthritis followed, which prevented her from writing. Neither medication nor the Buddhist faith she had rediscovered could overcome the pain. This, coupled with deep frustration at the state of Burmese politics and the death of her husband in 1996, finally bowed her indomitable spirit.

ANNA ALLOTT

Khin Myo Chit, writer and journalist: born 1 May 1915; married Khin Maung Latt (one son; died 1996); died Rangoon 2 January 1999.

tion Boyars

Neville Bonner



Bonner celebrating with a boomerang his becoming the first Aborigine in Australia's federal Parliament

NEVILLE BONNER was the first Aborigine to be elected to Australia's federal parliament in its 98 years of existence. He went to Canberra, the capital, in 1971 as a member of the Senate, the upper house, for the conservative Liberal Party. It was an enormous breakthrough for him and his people. Aboriginal land rights were about to take off as an issue, and are still at the forefront of Australian politics almost 30 years later.

Bonner's triumph was short-lived. The party that adopted him dumped him in 1983, when the Liberals made it impossible for him to win re-election. Bonner's only crime was that he had become too radical for the party of the white establishment. But he had set a path in history for other indigenous Australians to follow, although only one so far has done so.

Bonner was born on an island in the Tweed River in northern New South Wales, but spent most of his life in Queensland. He was an elder of the Jagara tribe, a small, nuggety man with a rich growth of hair that became white and rather wild in his later years, but always made him look distinguished. His home was Ipswich, a town near Brisbane, made infamous by Pauline Hanson, the fringe politician who shot to prominence last year with a campaign attacking Asian immigration and state funding for Aborigines.

Bonner's political life lasted more than 20 years; he was still speaking out for his people in 1998. Hanson's rash, fierce blaze petered out after less than three years. As Neville Bonner died, the rumour of Hanson's party in Queensland was imploding, its leader seemingly a spent force after losing her parliamentary seat last year.

Hanson-style bigotry among white Australians was a burden that Bonner overcame to win power. Once in parliament, though, he often had to face resentment from among his own people, especially the younger generation of Aborigine activists - educated, fiery and politically savvy - who accused him of being too conservative, too unwilling to rock the boat to advance the Aboriginal cause.

It was really a difference more of means than ends. Bonner's manner reflected the era of his upbringing in the 1920s and 1930s, one of paternal racism in Australia when official policy was to assimilate Aborigines as far as possible into the then predominantly Anglo-Celtic society in the belief that their own customs and culture would eventually disappear. On the vast cattle and sheep properties of the outback, Aborigines were "looked after" by white farmers who gave them jobs as stockmen in return for their keep; and in towns and cities, people took in Aboriginal women as domestic servants for whatever they cared to pay them.

When Bonner attended a constitutional convention in Canberra a year ago, on the question of Australia's becoming a republic, he did so as a committed monarchist. All four other Aboriginal delegates called for a republic. To them, the British monarchy was a symbol not of freedom but of the start of a long, sad road of dispossession ever since Captain Arthur Phillip raised the Union flag on the shores of what is now Sydney in 1788. Bonner saw it differently. Would becoming a republic really make a difference to the lot of black Australians, he asked. No, he said, it would not.

"I cannot see how it will resolve the

question of land and access to land that troubles us... Fellow Australians, what is most hurtful is that after all we have learned together, after subjugating us and then freeing us, once again you are telling us that you know better. How dare you? How dare you?"

In his 76th year, and already battling the lung cancer that killed him a year later, Bonner the passionate advocate had come a long way from the more humble man of earlier years.

His mother, Julia Bell, was an Aborigine, his father, Henry Bonner, an Englishman. Neville Bonner was fostered as a child, and went out working cutting

most conservative of all that party's branches, was happy to accept him in 1967 as a token black member or, as the party itself put it, "the first coloured member". In 1971, the Liberals appointed Bonner to fill a Queensland vacancy for the Senate, a federal house elected on a state-by-state basis.

At first Bonner toed the Liberal Party line on the big issues of the day. He did not speak out against the Vietnam war, nor did he support younger Aboriginal activists who modelled themselves on the American Black Power militants. But Bonner's Aboriginality eventually drove him to take a more radical

stance. He ran as an independent and lost. "Neville felt rejected by the tribe he had chosen," said Peter Beattie, now Labor Party premier of Queensland, referring to the Liberals' dumping of Bonner. Bob Hawke, elected Labor prime minister in 1983, appointed Bonner to the board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. He was awarded the Order of Australia the following year.

Last month, he was too ill to attend a ceremony in Brisbane where the state Labor government named an office block after him. His second wife, Heather, spoke for him: "The life of my beloved husband, from his birth in that blacks' camp as it was so cruelly called, to the rank of senator of Queensland in the national parliament - he had only \$5 in his pocket - is a splendid example of Australia's democracy."

Bonner always wanted the mainstream political parties to adopt more Aborigines as candidates, but they have been slow to do so. It is fitting that, in the year of Bonner's death, Aden Ridgeway will take his seat in the Senate in July, the second Aborigine to make it to federal parliament. It is even more fitting that Ridgeway, from New South Wales, got there by beating a candidate from Pauline Hanson's party.

ROBERT MILLIKEN

Neville Thomas Bonner, politician: born Utherabagh Island, New South Wales 28 March 1922; member of the Australian Senate 1971-83; AO 1984; twice married (five sons); died Ipswich, Queensland 5 February 1999.

'The life of my beloved husband, from his birth in that "blacks' camp" to the rank of senator in the national parliament, is a splendid example of Australia's democracy'

scrub and mustering cattle. Discrimination dogged him, as it did any black in rural Australia then, and sometimes even now. The Australian army declined to accept him when he tried to join up in 1940. The European climate was not suitable for Aborigines, they told him. Working in the bush, he suffered the indignity of eating and sleeping separately from the white stockmen. Such experiences awakened in him the need for change.

Yet he was conservative by nature, and, when he was later drawn to politics, the Liberal Party in Queensland, the

ical stand on indigenous rights. He put a motion to parliament calling on it to recognise that Aborigines were the prior owners of Australia.

That simple proposition was indeed radical, and threatening, in 1974. But in 1999 there is widespread public support for the same proposition to be written into the Australian constitution. It may be included in a forthcoming referendum on constitutional change to a republic.

By 1983, Bonner had stepped too far out of line as far as the Liberals were concerned. They dropped him to num-

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

DUNSBURY: Lt-Col Randal, Lord Dunsbury, of Co Meath, on 5 February 1999 peacefully aged 92 years. Much-loved husband of Sheila and father of Edward and Beatrice Plunkett. Funeral private. Memorial service in Dublin at a later date.

HANDLEY: Roger, artist, husband of Susanah. Born in Belfast, died on 4 February 1999 in Brighton. "I feel it in my heart and in my bones plucking my heartstrings, those heartstrings play a sad lament. And the big boots sail no more, along the Lagan shore, no more fog horn whistles blow" - Roger Handley, 1998 Commemorative Service at St Margaret's Church, The Green, Bellingham, East Sussex, on Wednesday 10 February at 4.30pm. Flowers may be sent to Christopher Stringer Funeral Services, 27 High Street, Bellingham. Telephone: 01273 506000.

MORTON: Charles William Hearn. Suddenly on 5 February, aged 73. Much-loved husband of Ann, father of Thomas, Guy, Jonathan and Cressida and devoted grandfather. Family funeral at St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton, on Thursday 11 February at 11am. Memorial service in Southwell Minister on Tuesday 2 March at 2.30pm. Donations if wished to the British Heart Foundation.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £250 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Norman Adams, painter and ceramic sculptor, 72; Mr Ryland Davies, operatic tenor, 56; Air Commandant Barbara Ducat-Amos, former Matron-in-Chief, RAF Nursing Service, 78; Miss Mia Farrow, actress, 54; Dr Garret Fitzgerald, former Prime Minister, Irish Republic, 73; Mr Paul Flynn MP, 64; Mr Bernard Gallacher, golfer, 50; Mr Robert Gordon, ambassador to Burma (Union of Myanmar), 47; Miss Kathryn Grayson, actress and singer, 77; Dr George Guest, organist, 75; Sir Robert Johnson, High Court judge, 66; Miss Carole King, singer and songwriter, 57; Mr Sandy Lyle, golfer, 41; Sir Donald Miller, former chairman, Scottish Power, 72; Dame Annette Penhaligon, local councillor, 53; Sir Hayden Phillips, Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, 56; Miss Amanda Rookcroft, operatic soprano, 33; Professor Michael Sterling, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Brunel University, 53; Miss Janet Suzman, actress, 60; Mr Clive Swift, actor, 63; Lord Williams of Elvel, 66.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, 1700; Antho-

ny Hope (Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins), novelist, 1863; Mrs Patrick Campbell (née Beatrice Stella Tanner), actress, 1865; Amy Lowell, poet, 1874; Alban Maria Johannes Berg, composer, 1885; Ronald Colman, actor, 1891; Brendan Behan, playwright, 1923.

Deaths: Nevil Maskelyne, astronomer royal, 1811; Francis Danby, painter, 1861; Feodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, novelist, 1881; Sir Frederic Truby King, moth-ercraft specialist, 1936; Elizabeth Mary Russell (Beauchamp), Countess Russell ("Elizabeth"), novelist, 1941; George Norman Douglas, novelist and essayist, 1952; Alexandre Nikolayevich Benois, painter and theatre designer, 1960; Sergei Vladimirovich Ilyushin, aircraft designer, 1977; Bill Haley (William John Clifton Haley), rock musician, 1981; Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, Russian leader, 1984.

On this day: Bishop John Hooper, burned at the stake for heresy 1555; Burke and Wills, Australian explorers, reached the estuary of the Flinders river, 1861; Verdi's opera *Falstaff* was first performed, Milan, 1893; Sybil Thorndike made her London debut in *The Merchant of Venice*, the British Military Service Act (conscription) came into force, 1916; the Balkan

Entente was signed by Romania, Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey at Athens, 1914; soap rationing began in Britain, 1942; *The Threepenny Opera* had its first London performance, 1956; a terrible blizzard raged in the United States, killing 64 people, 1969; the first trial flight of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet took place, 1969; due to a month-long miners' strike, the British government declared a state of emergency, 1972; Lithuania voted to secede from the Soviet Union, 1991.

Today is the Feast Day of St Alto, St Ansbart, St Apollonia, St Nicophorus of Antioch, St Sabinus of Canosa and St Tello.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Monet (II): Monet and Impressionism", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Miranda Neave, "English Goldsmiths: Paul de Lamerie", 2pm. British Museum: Marjorie Caygill, "Architects and Antiquities: the British Museum building", 11.30am. Royal Society of Arts (at Leeds University): Clare Short MP, "The UK Development Assistance Programme", 5.30pm (telephone 0113 233 6705 for tickets).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

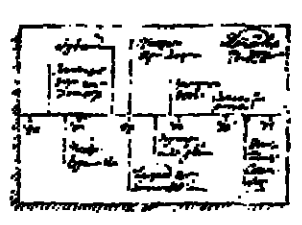
The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, attends the British Council International Seminar at the Strand Palace Hotel, London WC2; and officially opens Moorcroft School, Hillingdon, Uxbridge. The Duke of Kent, President, Edexcel Foundation, attends the Edexcel Student of the Year Awards at Drapers Hall, London EC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LUNCHEONS

Mid-Atlantic Club / English-Speaking Union: Mr Klaus-Peter Klaiber, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Nato, was guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Mid-Atlantic Club at the English-Speaking Union, London W1. He spoke on "Nato at 50: where do we go from here?" Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director, Atlantic Council, was in the chair.



HISTORICAL NOTES DAVID CRACKANTHORPE

The monumental avenues of Nîmes

THE LOCAL forms of the Resistance in France were as various as the scenery and the people themselves. There were two necessary conditions - a terrain apt for refuge, and support among the population. Daring exploits were carried out in towns, but Maquis groups working from forests and hills could do more damage. And they depended for supplies on the rural community.

In the Cévennes and the hinterland of Nîmes both conditions existed. A land of steep valleys covered in untamed forest; remote farmhouses at the end of rough tracks; main roads winding slowly into the Massif Central, readily blocked or ambushed. And a population with a tradition of resistance to tyranny. Nîmes is the historical centre of French Protestantism in the south: the hills were the refuge of the armies of the humble who held to the reformed faith after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, defying the dragons of the king. Inscribed on their emblematic shield was the word *Résister* - resistance was in the bones of the people.

Political fighting within the Resistance was endemic from the time the Communists began to join, after Hitler's invasion of Russia in 1941, and organised infiltration of the movement and the Committees of Liberation was put on foot. But some of the Communist-dominated

Maquis proceeded less scientifically.

Between 17 and 27 August 1944, the German forces streamed along the roads of the Languedoc towards the Rhône valley and the north, attacked on their way by Maquis on the ground and the RAF from the air. In the night of 24 August the German garrison of Nîmes stole away, leaving the town to itself. The Maquis of the railwaymen, getting wind of this in the Cévennes foothills, piled into a goods train and drove it into town with the dawn. They set up headquarters in the chief hotel, took over the local press, in which they announced themselves as "the occupying forces of the town of Nîmes", and raided the vaults of the Bank of France, to the tune of 250 million francs. "Who among the simple citizens of Nîmes at the time could doubt," asks Jacques-Augustin Bailly in *La Libération confisquée*, "that the Communists were the victors of the war and that theirs was the camp to join?" For many years after the war, they continued to dominate local politics.

Out in the country, the other Maquis fought the re-creating armies, with heavy losses on both sides. The Maquis were armed mainly by parachutages carried out by the RAF in favour of groups whose politics were approved. These did not include the Communists. The British intelligence services

have been accused of sacrificing some of the Maquis under their influence, inducing them to expose themselves to attack by ostentatious exercises and clearing of supposed landing grounds in the forests, as part of the campaign to make the enemy believe an invasion was imminent along the Languedoc coast. In the reign of Queen Anne the Huguenots waited vainly in their hills for sight of English sail in the Golfe du Lion. The most brilliant of all the Maquis groups - Bir-Hakeim - was massacred on 27 May; any wounded survivors being tortured before their execution.

Horrors multiplied in town and country as the end approached. In the hideous cells of the Milice in Nîmes was found a wooden box filled with drawn lace and finger-nails. In the interim before the establishment of the new government, ferocious and some say indiscriminate vengeance swept through towns and villages.

The trees along the avenues of Nîmes where captured resistants were hanged long survived as monuments; today, many of them are scheduled for felling and replacement in time for the millennium. The story of the Resistance, as the last survivors fade away, will never be fully told.

David Crackanthorpe is the author of *'Stolen Marches'* (Headline, £10)

Use of confidential material by sentencer

THE COURT of Appeal gave guidance as to the proper manner in which a sentencing judge should deal with confidential material put before him about a defendant who had given assistance to the police.

Mr Justice Hughes said that in the present case the judge had been presented with a written confidential report made by a police officer indicating that the defendant had given information to the police. Counsel for the Crown had been instructed to make an *ex parte* public interest immunity application in chambers as to whether the document should be shown to the defendant. The judge had indicated that it was not his practice to show such a document to the defence. The judge had then refused a request by the defence to see the document to ensure its accuracy.

It was convenient to remember that a confidential report indicating that a defendant had given information to the police, although supplied to the judge by a police officer, was supplied at the request of the defendant. A defendant's unsupported assertion to the effect that he had given assistance to the police was not normally likely to be a reliable basis for mitigation.

It followed, therefore, that the courts relied very heavily upon the greatest possible care being taken in compiling such a report, since the judge would have to rely upon it without

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R v X;
Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Rose, Vice-President, Mr Hughes and Judge Stephens QC)
1 February 1999

investigation if police enquiries were not to be damaged or compromised, or other suspects, guilty or innocent, to be affected.

Except in very unusual circumstances it would be neither necessary nor desirable that such a document should contain the kind of details which would attract a public interest immunity application. If, exceptionally, the document did contain such information, the usual rules about the conduct of public interest immunity applications, and in particular the Crown Court (Criminal Proceedings and Investigation Act 1996) (Disclosure) Rules 1997 would apply.

Absent any consideration of public interest immunity, such a document should be shown to counsel for the defence, who would no doubt discuss its contents with the defendant. It should be emphasised that that was not because it would be necessary to debate its contents, but so that there should be no room for any unfounded suspicion that the judge had

been told something potentially adverse to the defendant without his knowledge. On general principles, a defendant was entitled to see documents put before the trial judge on the question of sentence, and expeditions to the judge's chambers should not be necessary in such cases.

If the defendant wished to disagree with the contents of the document, it was not appropriate for cross-examination of the policeman to take place, whether in court or in chambers. The policeman was not a Crown witness, but had simply supplied material for the judge at the defendant's request. It would no doubt be possible in an appropriate case for a defendant to ask for an adjournment for further consideration to be given to the preparation of documents; otherwise, if the defendant did not accept what the document said, his remedy was not to rely on it. Further cross-examination of the police officer would almost invariably be contrary to the public interest.

No doubt the judge should ordinarily disregard such a document if asked by the defendant to do so, although in such a case he would no doubt not then be minded to entertain any submission that the defendant had given valuable assistance to the police.

If the judge did take the document into consideration he would doubtless say no more than that, in accordance with present practice, he had taken into consideration all the information about the defendant with which he had been provided.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

anhedonia, n.
Will Baxter be as lithe - and working - at his age? The sour biography induces anhedonia - the inability to feel pleasure, from

Greek and Latin, via French, first used by T.A. Ribot in 1896, who said: "If I may coin a counter-designation to analgesia". William James picked it up - and thought sea-sickness a cause. Wider currency would have come - or would it? - if Allen had not chosen a new title, *Annie Hall*, three weeks before opening.

10/11/50

Africa is where we live

Seydou Keita portrays his fellow Africans as real people. Not as anthropological curiosities. By Jason Oddy

I first saw the work of the Malian photographer Seydou Keita five years ago in the prestigious Fondation Cartier in Paris. I remember feeling slightly humbled by his lush and generous black-and-white portraits that lent a rare air of dignity to their African subjects. I remember also wondering why I had never come across any of these remarkable pictures before, none of which had been taken later than 1982.

At the time, I did not realise that Seydou Keita was a latecomer to the world stage. Until the French art historian André Magnin tracked him down in 1991 with the help of three anonymous prints he had seen in an exhibition in New York, Keita was unknown outside West Africa. And even there he had almost sunk into obscurity. His studio where he produced the body of work for which he is now so justly celebrated had, at the prompting of the then socialist government, closed its doors in 1983 when he was appointed official photographer of the new Malian state.

But in the 15 years prior to his conscription, he was constantly in demand. When Magnin first went to meet Keita at his home in Bamako, Mali's creaking capital city, he found the septuagenarian photographer sitting on an archive of some 30,000 negatives from his studio days. Since Keita, working with a 13x18cm plate camera, only took a single shot of most of his subjects, this vast collection is a testament to the phenomenal success he enjoyed during that period.

Earlier this year, with the Barbican's current show Africa by Africa approaching, I decided it was my turn to visit him. His pictures were undoubtedly going to be the exhibition's centrepiece, and I wanted to meet the person behind the work. More precisely, I wanted to find out just how it was he managed to produce such a consistently telling series of images.

It was Ramadan when I turned up at the labyrinthine mud-walled compound where Seydou Keita lives with his extended family. I was greeted by an unaffected and amiable old man who, although evidently suffering from his month-long diurnal fast, still spent the best part of two hot January afternoons telling me about his life as a portrait photographer.

By the early Fifties, his reputation had begun to spread right across West Africa. Queues would often form outside his door and he soon developed a system to cope with the volume of business. When you arrived at his studio, you either chose to wear your own clothes or decided on one of a variety of outfits that he provided. Tacked to the wall were pictures of previous clients in a whole range of poses. You pointed to the one you liked



Labours of love: an untitled composition from 1956. Keita (below) has an unerring eye for form and pattern

best and Keita would duplicate it. The whole process could take as little as 10 minutes.

The portraits that emerged were a sort of collaboration between the sitter's fantasy and the photographer's prowess, and they remain a lasting document of Bamako life in the decade-and-a-half before independence. But rather than being a straightforward chronicle of any objective reality, they are, more accurately, a record of a reflective reality. For these photographs show us the way people wish to see themselves, in front of the mirror and in front of the lens. In one picture, a woman has brought her sewing machine with her. In another, a man stands proudly next to his new bicycle.

It is no coincidence that the majority of Keita's clients were young people. In Fifties Africa, being photographed was itself indicative of a modern sensibility. With independence looming, an emerging generation was looking for new post-colonial role models. The apparent desire of many of them to have their pictures taken wearing the latest Western fashions or surrounded by props such as the watches, radios, telephones and

scooters that Keita himself provided, reinforces the impression that during this transitional period in their continent's history, young Africans put their faith in the trappings of a modernity that appeared to be the most promising option for advancing life after European rule.

The candour of these portraits, which expose the aspirations and beliefs of the people who posed in them, is what, when allied to Keita's unerring eye for form and pattern, lends the photographs such power. This knack for combining the ingenious with the aesthetic arose from the singular relationship that existed between Keita and his customers which, as he explained it, always saw him doing his utmost to realise their ambitions by "finding the most perfect, flattering poses".

In another context, say Annie Liebowitz's ego-caressing portraits of celebrities, such an approach sheds little light on the inner world of her subjects. But the simple and frank decorative strategies Keita employed during what was such a critical moment in his country's history produced the contrary result.

It cannot have escaped the attention of the organisers of Africa by Africa that the exhibition show-



ing alongside it, Picasso and Photography: The Dark Mirror, contains several pictures of Africans taken by Europeans that stand in sharp opposition to the work of the African photographers on the Barbican's lower level. Take the two postcards by the turn of the century French photographer Edmond Fortier. In each, a nearly naked Senegalese girl self-consciously faces the camera. "Girls from the Nene tribe wear only a vestige of clothing" reads the caption stamped on one of the cards. While such an apparently objective approach might be superficially informative, on closer inspection this attempt to classify the native

populace tells us more about Western prejudices (in this case "All savages are immodest") than it does about the people in front of the lens.

What is manifestly lacking in these and many other examples of colonial and even the neo-colonial photography of our age, is any genuine relationship between the photographer and his subject. Instead, the camera is a pseudo-scientific tool which, in seeking to objectify people, in seeing them as they never see themselves, neglects its fundamental duty - that of allowing any trace of their own subjective reality to emerge.

By contrast, each of Keita's pictures is, in his own words, a work of "love". In none of the portraits on show at the Barbican is there the merest hint of the non-consensual, that hallmark of so much of the intrusive photography that Africa has had to suffer. Rather his work exhibits an opposing tendency, one which I believe is the consequence of an instinctive sympathy between photographer and sitter; itself the result of a shared historical experience which meant that both parties tacitly understood what had to be expressed, namely the assertion of a personal truth that contained

within it the germs of a post-colonial political consciousness.

After my second and final meeting with Seydou Keita, I left Bamako for Djenné, a town my guidebook described as "the most satisfying" in the Sahel. It was a tourist trap. At lunch one day I sat next to a German photographer who spotted a postcard for sale. "This is one of mine," he told his companions triumphantly. Once they had left, I went to inspect it. It was a typical postcard with two Tuareg tribesmen walking, backs to the camera, into the desert. His choice of words seemed fitting. Because approached from behind, most probably unaware that they had even been photographed, the men in the picture had fallen captive to the photographer's lens. From a commercial, aesthetic, and who knows, even spiritual point of view, he now possessed that moment of their lives. And they had not been involved in the process at all.

Africa by Africa: Barbican until 28 March; £6, £4 conc. Open Mon, Thur - Sat 10am - 6.45pm; Tue 10am - 5.45pm; Wed 10am - 7.45pm; Sun & Bank Holidays 12pm - 6.45pm. Tel 0171-382 7105

Heavy weather

THEATRE
THE CAUCASIAN
CHALK CIRCLE
LIBRARY THEATRE
MANCHESTER

CHRIS HONER, directing a major Brecht play for the third consecutive year, dissents from the implications of the famous Brecht "alienation effect". In the excellent programme, he reprints the impeccably Bert Brecht poem, "Speech to Danish working-class actors on the art of observation", which insists not on type and role, but on particularity: "There is the man who is paying his taxes; he is not like / Every man who pays taxes." Honer wants to show all Brecht's characters as individuals, and is not afraid to claim that an audience should be emotionally involved in his plays.

Unlike his earlier, superb *Galileo*, this play presents problems. True, in the peasant girl Grusha, who neglects self-interest to save the baby abandoned by the clothes-crazed Governor's Wife as she flees an insurgency, and Azdak, the village slyster catapulted into the chair of District Judge, the play has two of Brecht's characters who most exceed depersonalised function. Azdak's character cannot be confined within such bounds - it is a variable no structure can anticipate. But we wait half the play for Azdak, and meanwhile Grusha's perilous flight, pursued by the Ironshirts, is composed of instructive episodes and a series of minor characters.

It is here that Brecht's "speech" is most to be heeded, but unfortunately hardly any accurate observation is in evidence that would individualise the characters. The production is caught between stylisation and realistic vignette, and is consequently confusing. Michael Pavelka's designs add to this. Predominantly white and, in Ace McCarron's decisive shafts of side-lighting, so striking against the dark background, the costumes mix peasant layering and kabuki voluminousness in a way that makes the actors seem cumbersome, and the stage cluttered. The essential lightness and speed are, so far, lacking (I saw a preview).

Yet Kati Williamson's clear Grusha is consistently involving, and Rachel Smith's screeching and fluttering as the Governor's Wife does make stylisation work. David Fielder, as the anarchic Azdak, forever nursing a dog-end in his palm, scuttles over the stage like a demented but unkillable tarantula.

Fourteen actors and two musicians for Brecht in these times seem untold riches, and Chris Honer's pertinacity and vision are admirable. But in the usual four weeks' rehearsal, even he cannot bring a company through a piece as stylistically demanding as this.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT
To 6 March (box office 0161-236 7110)

How to grow old gracefully

STRAUSS'S MARSHALLIN in *Der Rosenkavalier* is supposed to be aged 32, but the part is usually taken by a singer rather further into her years. In fact, there is an accepted progression from the ingenue role of Sophie to the senior part, normally reserved for an established diva.

The Scottish Opera's Marshallin, Joan Rodgers, is, of course, an established diva. However, with her slight and pretty figure she looks like a young girl, and the voice is essentially lyric. Given the customary suspension of disbelief, she would pass excellently as Sophie, with, say, Anne Evans as the Marshallin. Casting Rodgers as the older woman

OPERA
DER ROSENKAVALIER
SCOTTISH OPERA

put a strain on the Sophie (here, the brightly focused Lisa Milne), who had to seem younger and prettier, and on the whole balance of the action, for the opera is chiefly about a woman who sees her youth slipping away.

This strain was worsened initially by a conductor, Richard Armstrong, who held the rhythms too tightly corseted. He relaxed a little as things progressed. The effect was to give a special poignancy to the end of Act 1, in which Rodgers wistfully recalled her teenage

years; the soft warmth of the voice, the bewitching smile that hovered always near her lips, the quiet self-possession, gave the lightest of touches to this moment of pathos, a bit shallow but nevertheless heart-felt. As the grand patrician, she was less credible, and you worried that she might lose control of the stageful of dubious characters in Act 3.

Indeed, it was a bit of a surprise when this young, pretty thing was able to command the boy Octavian out of the room at the close of Act 1. For this Octavian (Stella Doufexis) was a tall, gallant, fiery character with flashing eyes and a voice that was vibrant and comprehensive. It was a totally

convincing portrayal of the impulsive young male.

If Rodgers shed a new light on the Marshallin, then Peter Rose gave a new meaning to Baron Ochs. A heavyweight baritone, he was able to give force and power to what is usually a boorish pantaloone; you felt for him when he longed for the unsophisticated country life in a Vienna of tricks and conspiracies.

It was impressive how closely these fine principals had worked with the producer, David McVicar. Any producer can get the chorus to group well, but to get soloists to turn their heads away at just the moment when the harmony clouds, or to slow in mid-ges-

ture when Strauss suddenly imposes a *piano*, takes real authority. McVicar had designed his own set, an elegant room with heavy drapes and candles, and Tanya McCallin provided sumptuously coloured costumes.

There were some precious vignettes: Joanna Camplin was a snakey Anna, Phyllis Caman a ludicrously shocked Mariame, and Harry Ward, in the non-singing part of Ochs' bastard Leopold, was a deliciously greasy slob. There was plenty to admire in this production: even the audience at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, showed some real enthusiasm for once.

RAYMOND MONELLE

The rough with the smooth

ROOTS OF all kinds sprang healthily to life at the South Bank on Saturday afternoon when the London Philharmonic's admirable "Roots - Classical Fusions" launched ritual-inspired events covering Caribbean, European, Celtic, Aboriginal, Islamic, Asian and Mediterranean cultures, then capped the lot with related Copland, Mahant and Stravinsky.

I joined the proceedings at 6pm when the venue shifted from the Hall's foyers to the auditorium, and Polyphony Ekonda brought us a hot-blooded sequence of music from the African equatorial rainforest. Spotlights shed a glimmer of light as voices chattered or yelped off-stage and a colour-

CLASSICAL
ROOTS - CLASSICAL
FUSIONS
LPO/NAGANO
RFH, SBC, LONDON

fully daubed troupe of grass-skirted girls shuffled into view. We heard the rhythmic itching of rattles, scrapers and wooden slit drums; there were invocations, proverbs and moral dilemmas; social and familial issues - all shouted, stamped or danced with such ferocious energy that the hall soon filled with a pungent, sweaty odour. The thumping climax saw the lead girl smile a gleaming set of teeth, splay her thighs wide and press a hand hard against her crotch. This was ritual in

the raw, but the real rub came when you panned from stage to audience, and pitied the heated and blatant against the formal and goggle-eyed. By rights, we should all have been shouting, swaying, laughing and stamping our feet - not sitting there like white-coated spectators behind glass doors.

When Polyphony Ekonda took their last bow and we towelled off after a brief interval, Kent Nagano and the London Philharmonic brought us a rather more "polite" musical commentary on community relations: Aaron Copland's orderly celebration of a 19th-century Pennsylvania country wedding. The juxtaposition between Polyphony Ekonda's ecstatic pulsing and the neat

sound-frame of Copland's tune-ful *Appalachian Spring* ballet suite spoke volumes, though Nagano's performance really came into its own only when the mood relaxed and the players had enough room to breathe. Better by far were the Hilliard Ensemble in collaboration with Kudsi Erguner on Turkish flute, where threads of music from the Mevlevi Sema tradition were woven among (but never within) the individual movements of Guillaume de Machaut's glorious *Mass for Our Lady*.

After a second interval, Nagano and the Philharmonic returned in force for the evening's dramatic denouement and Stravinsky's "scenes from Pagan Russia", his ballet *The Rite of Spring*. The first

few minutes were untidy and unrepresentative, but the further we ventured into "The Adoration of the Earth", the faster and tighter it became. "The Sacrifice" was better still, especially the humid introduction and the frenetic final dance. Parallels with Polyphony Ekonda, with tribal stamping rhythms and an implied eroticism, were less obvious than the contrast between tribal joy and hand-crafted revolution. In 1913, *The Rite* caused a riot, though nowadays its violent gestures seem small beer in comparison with some of the works that came after it. Maybe that's because, ultimately, revolutions mean far less than roots.

ROB COWAN



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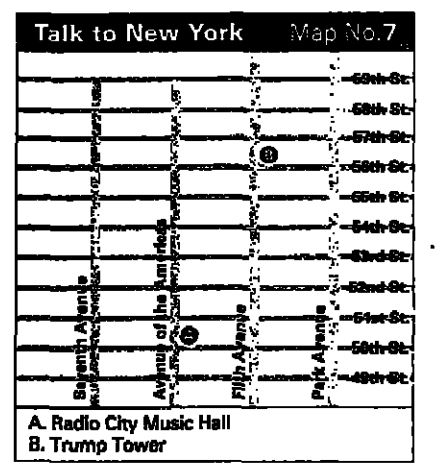
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Cool, calm, disconnected

Black lines. Luminous colour. Domestic scenes. Patrick Caulfield's pictures are very simple and very strange. By Tom Lubbock

A Patrick Caulfield retrospective misses the point, I think. The main point of any Caulfield picture is that it should be the nearest thing in the room. Wherever it hangs, a Caulfield provides its surroundings with a kind of ideal focus, holds up to them a dream-image of clarity and tidiness. It should probably hang in the sort of space that Caulfield's art has made its own: restaurants, foyers, the modern office or apartment. It should hang singly.

And so to hang a Caulfield in an art gallery; a gallery moreover where all the other objects around it are themselves other pictures by Caulfield - obviously, the effect will be lost. You'll get a total neatness stalemata. Or some of the pictures will even start to look, by comparison, a bit messy.

This is just bad luck. A retrospective is the standard way of honouring an artist of Caulfield's years and achievement. There are nearly four decades of painting on show at the Hayward Gallery, and his name has been famous for most of them. It's bad luck that his pictures aren't designed for their own company.

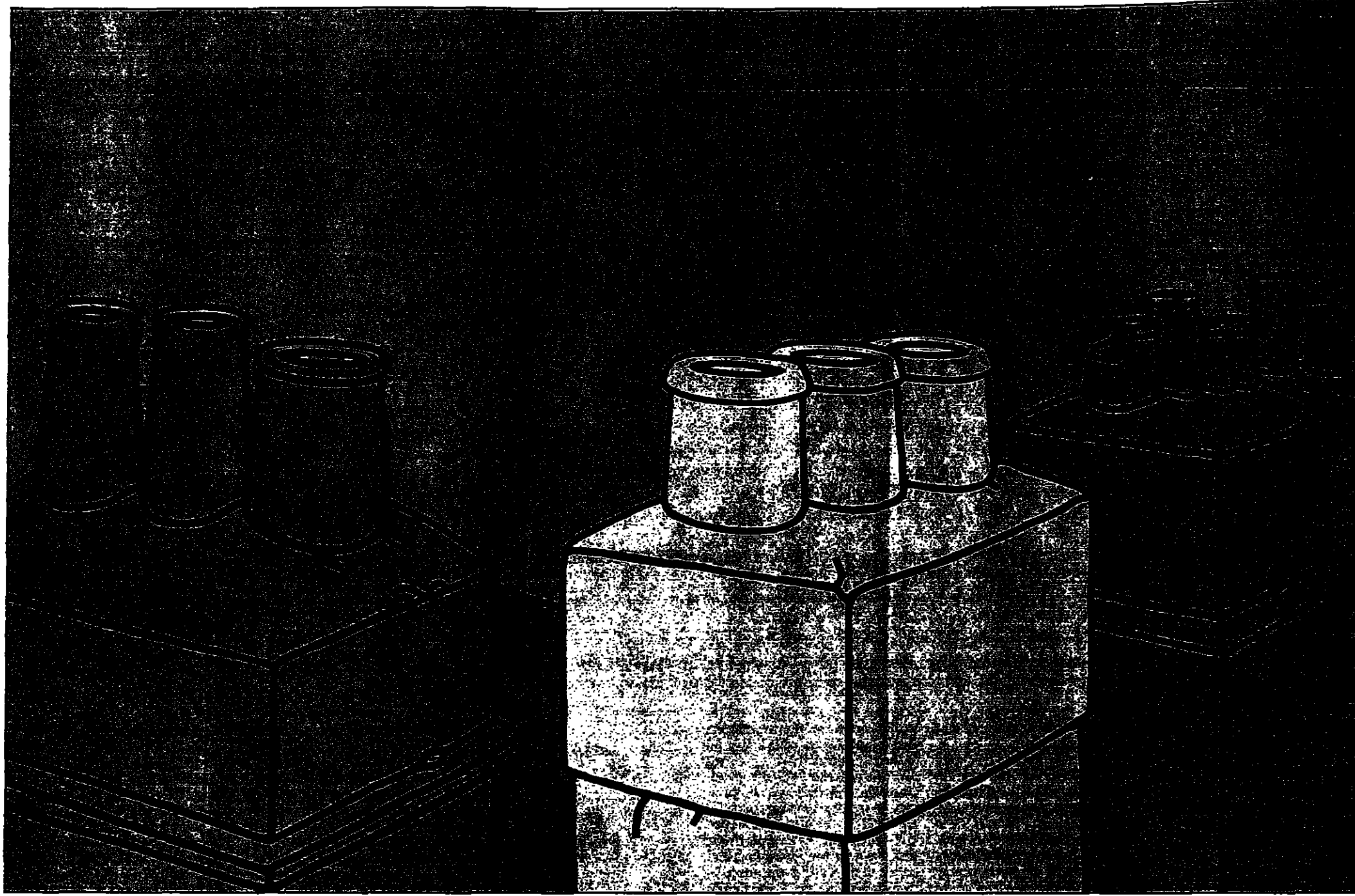
Their un-retrospect-ability needn't reflect badly on them, though. Caulfield's art requires a quasi-domestic, non-art environment to work in - and this is an interesting thing about it. But, of course, that's likely also to mean a privately-owned environment. (Leaf through the Hayward's catalogue, and note which pictures are in private hands: those are the Caulfields in proper homes.) So what about public honour? And public access?

Good questions. After all, Caulfield is something of a public favourite, a one-time "pop" artist who really was. In his mid-twenties, in the early Sixties, he invented a style that became proverbial. An advert could use it, confident that most people would recognise it, even if they couldn't name its creator. A bit of Leger, a bit of Mondrian, a bit of Minoan fresco and commercial illustration combined to produce the most distinctive British graphic since John Flaxman's neo-Greek outline drawings two centuries ago. And like Flaxman's plain penmanship, the Caulfield manner wasn't exactly personal.

A thick black line, always of the same, steady thickness, defines each object and detail. It's a style that stresses and isolates things; or rather, insulates. It's a world made snug, outline as lagging. It's also a world made equal. Whatever is described is identical treatment, and this can be funny results. Very small and thin things - a stem, a bit of grit - are established with outlines thicker than themselves.

In fact, the charm of this Sixties style is its perfect insensitivity. It's as if some original picture - with a wide, various and responsive range of marks - had been put through a programme that recognised only one sort of line. Sometimes Caulfield makes a pointed joke about what's lost in his translation. In *View of the Rooftops*, say, or in *Bend in the Road*, you find some single, separate little squiggles. They're evidently meant to stand for cracks in the brickwork, or divots in the ground, and you can see that in a more responsive style, that's what they would mean. But here, with their even widths and square ends, they're as blankly non-descript as a road-sign. They deliberately strain depiction.

At the same time, this world of even, definite edges is filled in with floods of



'Across the Rooftops' (1965) and, below, 'Pottery' (1969): Caulfield's work is a variety act that stops short of showing off

even, luminous colour, which always stops clean at the outlines; but often spreads over individual things. In *Dining Room*, a whole room with its table and chairs is blocked in with a uniform grey - a scheme that's only broken by a large spherical lamp (bright warm white) and a window of evening sky (dull violet). So while the outlines stress separate objects, the colour can override this, asserting (contrarily) large units of sameness. This is playful and mysterious. Also, through sheer arrangement of flat colours, Caulfield can introduce not just luminosity but a sense of realistic lighting - oddly, as these images are, of course, without any directionalised light and shade.

So a world made clear and strange, formulated, set at a remove, straining at the real. And the best work that Caulfield made in this style, it seems to me, the work that turns its economies to maximum impact, is not a painting, and so not in this retrospective. It's a book-work of 21 screen-prints that obliquely illustrate poems by Jules Laforgue. But you hardly need the

poems to get the point. The images' strength is in their smallness, their close-croppedness, and that they're a series.

They show a life in cut-off details: a glimpse of sky through parted curtains; a menu card; a bedside lamp; railings; a clock; a glass of water on a window sill. They're details whose very inconsequence is poignant. They're the kind of minutiae that, in extreme emotion, the mind lights on, latches on to, holds for always - the kitchen tap that will emblemise for ever the first night or the last row. This is the subject Caulfield's detached intensity was made for. You can see a set of these prints in a general retrospective of Caulfield prints at the Alan Cristea Gallery in Cork Street. Or there's another set that's going round the country as a Hayward Gallery Touring Exhibition, and it can be seen at the Howden Park Centre in Livingston, West Lothian, from next week.

One thing these Laforgue images do is answer a question that Caulfield's images often leave begging: why? Why is he so interested in this world of contemporary



and slightly tacky accessories, design, and cuisine? What do these objects and environments mean to him? Are they just the kind of things he paints? It looks

increasingly like that, just as his paintings as time goes on seem more and more to be ways of - very elegantly, very intelligently - filling up a canvas.

The Caulfield style of the Sixties was, as I say, not exactly personal. It suppressed his individual handwriting (though not quite entirely; that was another of its vital tensions). It was certainly very consciously adopted. And for all its seeming uniformity, it was capable of considerable play. So why not adopt a few more styles, and mix them together, and generally up the gamesmanship? That's been Caulfield's course since the mid-Seventies.

He's developed a repertoire of depictive devices and accomplishments. There's outline-less silhouette, and very high-finish photo-realism, and a looser, more impressionistic photo-realism, and exact imitations of patterns and textures (wallpaper, woodgrain), and flat shapes which mean cast shadows, or patches of cast light, or sometimes just an abstract shape. And there's some low relief too. All these things intersect and overlap to create dif-

ferent levels of reality and *trompe l'oeil* effects and elusively paradoxical spaces.

True, this variety act never becomes stupidly show-off. It's really quite tactful. On the other hand, it doesn't seem very pointful, and I admit I was finding it hard by the end to keep my eye on them. But they're still as neat as can be, and perhaps the real problem is public exhibition. Seeing them in relation to the surroundings of a more private setting might make all the difference. As for public access, there's a simple answer - posters, large and high-quality reproduction, with wide distribution. Take one home: that's the best retrospective this sort of art could ask for.

Patrick Caulfield: Hayward Gallery, South Bank, until 11 April; 26, cones 24. Print retrospective: Alan Cristea Gallery, 31 Cork Street, tomorrow to 11 March; closed Sat pm and Sun, free. The Poems of Jules Laforgue: Howden Park Centre, Livingston, West Lothian, 18 Feb to 11 March; closed Sun, free. Then touring to Brecon and Taunton.

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART. THIS WEEK: DAVE MORRIS

IS IT a pile of pigs or a heap of aubergines? Are the pointy bits snouts, stalks or nipples? Is there a buttock or two in there?

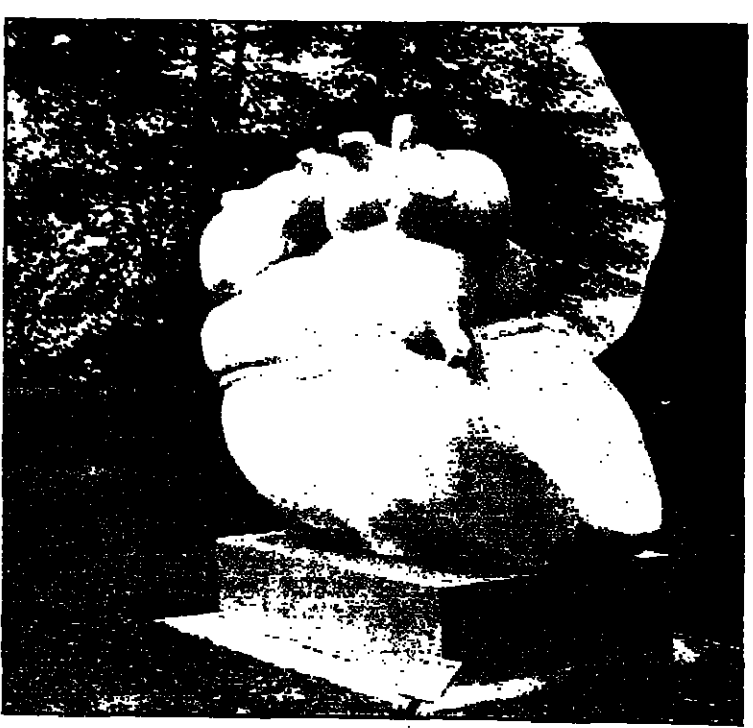
Dave Morris's five-foot-tall sculpture in Ancaster freestone evokes what artists these days call a "multiple response". At first glance, it could be any of several different things. The way out of the confusion is to laugh. Many people do. Morris is not in the least offended.

Humour is rare in British sculpture. You can be just as confused by the sculpture of Moore, Hepworth or Caro without getting so much as a titter out of it.

When the giggles subside, the eye focuses on Morris's voluptuous sags and bulges - the weight distribution (to use a dry term) that occurs whenever nature wraps bulky organisms in sacks so that they can pile themselves in heaps without getting tangled up.

Gravely, his sculpture wittily observes, tends to mould piles of fat pigs or piles of ripe aubergines in the same sinuous way. One squashed on the bottom row wearily drops its snout - or is it its stalk? The one lying on top of it raises itself, as if expecting to have its back scratched. Another nuzzles its stalk into its neighbour's soft flank.

The sculpture's title, *Body Boat*, is little help in deciphering what the bodies are. But the base is actually a storm-tossed vessel - recognisable to those who know Morris's recent work as part of his cargo theme - and the bodies, as a few seconds' investigation will



confirm, are clearly aubergines. Pigs? Breasts? Whatever gave you that idea?

Body Boat is one of three in his "Boat" series, begun last year as he approached 50. Aubergines and chillies in seagoing vessels made their debut only four years ago, in a series of six of his sculptures called "South American Trade".

His work before that, although also concerned with mechanics and loading, was quite different. In the 1980s he used discarded builders' timber to make heavy, somewhat

threatening yet absurd constructions, such as *Walnut Holding Device* and *Conker Boring Machine* - references to the megalomania of Victorian engineers and to the subsequent decay of heavy industry. He was also inspired by the notebooks of his Uncle Jack, a print compositor whose device to speed the production of biscuits was adopted by Huntley & Palmer in the years before the war.

A couple of years ago, he was making giant "still lifes" from

timber and laminates - English ones with wooden crockery, cutlery and bottles, and Moroccan ones with oversized versions of the sugar hammers typical of that country.

He would be better known, and his work more expensive, but for his ruthless habit of abandoning themes for new ones, instead of consolidating them - and for his devotion to teaching. For the past 10 years he has been subject leader in sculpture at Loughborough University. His current theme of travel and cargo dates back to his early years among the granite hills of Malvern in Worcestershire, his 10-mile, twice-daily bus journey to school through the bombed industrial wasteland of Birmingham - and his recurring thought that exotic vegetables could be grown on bomb-sites, under glass, instead of shipped from distant continents.

His boat forms, he says, are metaphors for travel, "whilst the fruit or vegetable forms can be read in the actual or as metaphors for people". So if you thought you saw a nipple, do not feel ashamed.

A retrospective of Morris's work of the past four years is at the Diorama Arts Centre, 34 Osborn Street, London NW1, 22 March-1 April (0171-916 5467/5468). 'Body Boat' is on show at the Ferrers Centre, Staunton Harold, Ashby De-La Zouch, Leics, to 31 March (01332 885408). Prices: 'Body Boat' is £2,550; 'Mixed Cargo' £2,750. Works at the Diorama are mostly in the £1,000-£1,800 range

Strictly ballroom

REVIEW

SILVIO WOLF
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON



'The Elsewhere'

SILVIO WOLF'S installation, *The Elsewhere*, gives a whole new meaning to the term "site specific": there's not a lot to see here apart from the site. In fact, the Royal Festival Hall Ballroom, which is playing host to the Italian artist's first solo show in the UK, is completely empty, and if it weren't for a helpful sign on one of the entrance pillars the exhibit might pass you by altogether.

There is a sound-track playing: the sound of children crying, calling out to each other, yelling and squealing in true playground fashion, which rains down on you from the ceiling, as if the children were hovering above you just out of sight. There is also a new, constant light source, specially installed to give a timeless quality by denying the changing times of day outside. But apart from these two elements the Ballroom is unaltered.

"I'm fascinated by the personality that a specific place is capable of expressing, and I'm increasingly obsessed by the need to establish a symbolic relationship with such a place," explains Wolf, who lives and works in Milan. The recording of the children's voices was originally made for an art space in Milan that was once a reformatory in the city's 18th-century orphanage for girls.

"I wasn't just interested in giving evidence to the lost

traces and memory of the place, but with giving a new form, life and presence to the vanished community of girls who lived there," he says.

A series of bemused-looking, dark-suited men wandered into the middle installation while I was there, stared at the ceiling as if that held all the answers and then beat a hasty retreat, each and every one looking distinctly uncomfortable. But then, a walk around the exhibit is slightly unnerving, surrounded as it is on three sides by the bar area, the customers of which stare

on impassively at the live entertainment before them. The space is vast, its towering white pillars calling to mind the impressive height and scale of those in Egyptian temples, its emptiness and noise accentuated by the subdued, adult presence of those clustered around its edges.

Fortunately, there is an accompanying CD-Rom, being presented as an artwork in its own right, which does flesh out the rather bare bones of the exhibit. At the click of a mouse, you can access information about the RFB and the artist, which includes his biography and examples of his previous works, and you can navigate the installation itself in true playground fashion.

The constant light and looped sound of *The Elsewhere*, however, is exhausting after a while. Twenty-four hours of this drip of constant noise would surely send you mad, particularly as the calm, empty setting should be silent and peaceful. And does this treatment of art's potential works of art? If that's the case, a reconstruction of my living-room, with an accompanying tape of all the arguments of the successive neighbours who have lived in the flat upstairs, would count. After all, as Wolf argues, "the place becomes the event".

KATE MIRKHAL

HEALTH

The red rash of romantics



Scarlet fever used to be a killer. Today it is easily treated, but a recent outbreak surprised one family. By Lizzie Enfield

A few weeks before Christmas my two-year-old daughter and I were both struck down with what I thought was a particularly nasty bout of flu. Alarmed by Christina's temperature and the fact that she was refusing to eat or drink, my husband called the doctor. She was suitably impressed by the child's declining health and, since she was in the house, agreed to have a quick look at me. I was fully expecting to be told to get up and tend to my ailing daughter (like a proper mother), but instead was told to stay put as I was suffering from scarlet fever.

I must admit to having been secretly pleased that I had a genuine reason for feeling utterly lousy, though somewhat alarmed to have succumbed to a disease which, as far as I was concerned, had all but died out and affected only small children. While we stayed in bed and watched the Christmas schedule of black-and-white movies (in which the heroines tended to die of scarlet fever), I learnt that there had been an outbreak of the disease in Sussex, with 14 cases reported in the Brighton and Hove area within a month, compared to just one case in the previous year.

Dr Angela Iversen, the area's consultant in communicable disease control, says that such a rise is not unusual but does give some cause for concern. "The disease is cyclical so numbers tend to go up and down. The danger with scarlet fever is that, because its early symptoms are similar to a sore throat, doctors may not prescribe antibiotics immediately, and if it isn't treated there can be severe complications."

The earliest historical record of a scarlet fever outbreak was made in 1543 in Sicily. A century later, on 10 November 1664, Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary: "my little girl Susan is fallen sick of the measles, we fear, or, at least, of a scarlet fever." Whether there had been earlier outbreaks of the disease is not known, but it continued to occur in Europe and North America, cropping up frequently in literature.

One of my childhood heroines, Beth in *Little Women*, caught scarlet fever and, though she survived the incident, she was so weakened by the disease that she never

fully recovered. As a rather bookish child I always quite liked the idea of being struck down with what I considered to be a "romantic" disease but, having suffered an apparently mild dose of scarlet fever, it's an experience I'm not anxious to repeat.

Characterised by a sore throat, a high temperature and a rough red rash, scarlet fever is far less common and less threatening than it used to be. In the 19th century it was still widespread and dangerous, especially among small children. In the 1860s, the mortality rate from scarlet fever was 972 per million of population. Nowadays there are virtually no fatal cases, but about 4,000 to 5,000 people a year contract the disease in England and Wales.

It is caused by a type of streptococcus (bacterium) that also causes sore throats, swollen glands, ear infections and tonsillitis. Scarlet fever is just one form that a streptococcus infection can take. According to Dr Julius Weinberg, consultant epidemiologist for the Public Health Laboratory, the bacteria are common and many people carry them in their throats with no ill-effects whatsoever. "What causes some people to get scarlet fever and not others is not completely understood. It may be that the host becomes more susceptible because they have flu or are run down, for example."

My initial symptoms were apparently typical: a sore throat, accompanied by fever and headache. Small children often also suffer from vomiting and nausea. The characteristic rash usually appears within two days on the neck, chest and back, and may spread to the rest of the body. It results from a reaction to a toxin, produced by certain strains of the streptococcus, which is absorbed by the blood and, if not treated, can ultimately lead to blood poisoning.

The face also becomes flushed, and the tongue swollen and red - doctors dramatically describe it as a "strawberry" tongue. As the fever subsides there is frequently peeling of the skin, especially on the hands and feet.

My father backed away in some alarm on hearing that our home was infected with scarlet fever. He had spent six weeks in isolation in the school sanatorium after getting the disease in the Thirties. At that time, scarlet fever was dreaded because cases



Above: Lizzie and daughter Christina; top: Beth in 'Little Women' contracted scarlet fever

Andrew Hasson

developed far away, in time and distance, from others. Thinking that one must come from another, people would blame the contamination on a toy that had been played with by another scarlet fever patient a year before. Now, it is understood that a child who develops scarlet fever probably picked up a germ from someone who just had a sore throat, or was carrying the streptococcus without feeling its effect at all.

Our household copy of Dr Spock, published in 1957, advised that scarlet fever could be treated with "one of the modern drugs that shorten the disease and greatly lessen the chances of complications". It still went on, however, to list frightening-sounding complications such as rheumatic fever, and urged parents to check with the local authority about quarantine regulations. When I asked my doctor about this, she shot me and the tattered health manual a withering look, and put the record straight.

Before the advent of antibiotics, scarlet fever did pose a considerable risk to health, because of the danger of the bacteria

spreading from the throat to other parts of the body. This can still result in ear infections, sinusitis, necrotising fasciitis (the famous flesh-eating bug) septicæmia, meningitis, pneumonia and toxic shock syndrome. In the past, it also caused rheumatic fever and kidney infections. Nowadays scarlet fever can be diagnosed by a throat swab test, and treatment with an antibiotic, usually penicillin or erythromycin, usually leads to rapid recovery.

There may also be other reasons for scarlet fever having ceased to be a killer disease. People are obviously healthier and living in less crowded conditions, but Dr Weinberg believes the bug itself may have become less virulent. "A bug that kills its host is badly designed. It in fact wants to live with its host. So it is probable that the streptococcus that causes scarlet fever has adapted, so that the discomfort it causes is less severe."

Our immune systems, too, are constantly shifting, which explains why some people may come into contact with the streptococci but suffer no ill-effects, whereas children,

whose immune systems are not fully developed, are more prone to the disease.

Although scarlet fever is no longer a killer, it remains on the list of notifiable diseases, "more for historical reasons than for anything else", says Dr Weinberg. However, he and his colleagues do not wish to see it removed from the list because of the danger that the bug could become virulent again. "It is important to maintain surveillance of a disease that has the potential to be life-threatening, and monitor its level of occurrence. At the moment the bacterium that causes scarlet fever is highly sensitive to penicillin, but it is possible that new strains could develop which are resistant."

Both I and my daughter are now fully recovered, and, having researched this piece, I am truly thankful for the availability of penicillin. No longer do I harbour dark romantic notions about 19th-century diseases, though I admit I got a lot more sympathy from friends and family than my husband, who was also pretty ill over Christmas - but he only had a nasty bout of flu!

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

I TAKE hormone replacement therapy, which contains oestrogen and progesterone. The progesterone is present only during the second half of the month. I feel terrific when I am taking the oestrogen on its own, but dreadful when I start the progesterone. Why can't I just take the oestrogen? Progesterone is added to HRT because it prevents the lining of the uterus from being overstimulated by oestrogen. When HRT was first introduced, women who took oestrogen on its own had an increased risk of cancer of the lining of the uterus. This cancer risk can be eliminated by taking progesterone for at least 10 days a month. You could try a type of HRT that contains a different formulation of progesterone. Another possibility is to take tibolone, which is a unique form of HRT that does not contain progesterone. If all else fails, you may be able to take oestrogen on its own if you are prepared to have regular (probably once a year) biopsies of the lining of the womb to check for cancer. This is not as bad as it sounds, but you would need to organise it with a gynaecologist.

I AM a 34-year-old man with seborrhoeic dermatitis: dandruff and flaky skin on my forehead and cheeks, especially in cold weather. I have tried Nizoral shampoo and Daktacort cream, neither of which has had any effect. I am getting desperate and a brown paper bag seems the only option. Any suggestions? A yeast infection with *Pityrosporum* is one of the factors that causes seborrhoeic dermatitis. For your scalp, try Polytar AF, a shampoo that contains zinc pyrithione. For your face, you should try terbinafine (Lamisil) cream, which sometimes works better than Daktacort. You will need a doctor's prescription for this.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, fax 0171 293 2182, or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions.

The dental chair is a more comfortable place

Fear of the dentist's surgery is no longer justified. Technology is transforming it from torture chamber to beauty parlour. By Roger Dobson

FOR MOST of her life, Dawn Hutchings was too embarrassed about the state of her teeth to smile, laugh or even talk without holding a protective hand in front of her mouth.

After years of anxiety and worry, the 35-year-old administrator dipped into her savings, spent £4,150 on a new smile, and now says that it has completely changed her life.

"For years I was miserable because my teeth were disgusting, and I thought nothing could be done. It's made me a different person, and friends and the people I work with can't believe that it's me," she says.

Treatments such as hers are possible because of the techniques in recent years. Not so long ago, dental surgeries had about as much charm as a medieval torture chamber; only the bravest plucked up courage to seek out a dentist as a last resort, to have a painful tooth extracted or filled.

But the *Marathon Man* era of dentistry has now all but gone. Radical technology has transformed dentists from tooth-pullers into tooth-savers, and most visits to the surgery are no longer driven by pain, but by a simple desire to keep teeth healthy and prevent decay.

Fluoride in toothpaste and dietary changes, particularly a lower sugar intake, started the revolution

in dental health care that created greater expectations, which in turn fuelled the search for new treatments and methods, from painless fillings to home whitening kits.

The noisy drill is now being replaced by air brushes and gels; teeth can be rebuilt in the mouth or

whitened with lasers; *Baywatch* smiles can be created from a jagged line of yellow teeth.

"People are much more aware of their teeth now, and dentistry is very different to what it was; it's much more preventive," says Dr Tony Newbury, a Harley Street dentist.

"When I graduated in the early Sixties we took teeth out and we had two filling materials - black for the back, white for the front. That was it. Now there is a whole heap of things we can do. When I started I would do five or more extractions a week; now I may do five in a whole year."

"The art of dentistry has changed significantly. The whole thing is to be minimally invasive, whereas in the past we were maximally invasive. We were taught to put fillings in just in case the teeth got decayed. "We can do all sorts of things now. We can bond material to the surface

of teeth, which means you don't have to be drastic when you cut into teeth, and you don't have to do the great undercuts that we had to do in the past to hold the material in place. We can change the colour of the teeth, straighten crooked teeth, fill the spaces between teeth, rebuild

chips, and so on. It is the most exciting time in dentistry."

The treatment Dawn Hutchings had took three hours. Her problem was that she had dark yellow upper teeth, two twisted teeth, spaces between the teeth, a receding upper jaw and a thin lip line.

Her treatment involved having resin sculptures bonded to the teeth, and changing their colour to a natural-looking white. The teeth were lengthened and built into a better and fuller smile, and the resin has given more support to her upper lip.

More developments are on the horizon, including a compound that coats the teeth and prevents bacteria from sticking. One coat of this compound will give protection for up to four months.

There are also treatments for those who have a morbid fear of the dentist and the drill.

According to Dr Peter Webb, author of *Robinson's Family Encyclopedia of Homeopathic Remedies*, there are natural potions suitable for those who faint or throw up at the sight and smell of a dental surgery. The secret for those whose symptoms are a weakening of the knees and short-term memory loss at the prospect, is, he says, a tot of yellow jasmine, taken an hour before the appointment.

SOME OF THE LATEST ADVANCES IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

A complete smile: The full works involves building up the front of the teeth with special resin and thickening the teeth by about half a millimetre. Teeth can also be lengthened, lined up and whitened, and gaps and chips filled in. Cost: around £5,000 for the upper teeth

Air abrasion filling: A spray of an air-and-powder mix that cuts out decay. Unlike a drill, it removes little of the good tooth surrounding the decay. Ideal for those with a dental phobia, it is silent, with no odour or heat, and in most cases there is no need for an injection. Cost: £65-£185

Dental gel filling: Dissolves tooth decay with no drilling.



BEFORE COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Injection or pain: The gel breaks down protein layers in the decayed dentine of the tooth. It also contains sodium hypochlorite, an anti-bacteria agent to break up decay. Cost: £65-£185

Braces: Brackets can be fitted to the inside of the teeth, out of



AFTER TREATMENT

sight. They can also be removed by the patient. Cost: £350-£3,000

Laser whitening: Teeth discolour for a variety of reasons including blood disorders, ageing, trauma and tobacco. In this therapy, a gel is painted on to the teeth, then exposed to a low-power laser. In three minutes

yellow teeth can be lightened by three shades. The teeth will continue to whiten over the next 48 hours. Cost: £350 to £600

Home whitening kits: A custom-designed mould has a whitening solution inside. Teeth will whiten up to three shades over eight weeks. Cost: £350

Resin veneer: Plaque-free teeth are coated with a veneer of composite resin, bonded directly on to the surface of the tooth to make it thicker and whiter. Cost: Around £450 a tooth

Resin compound: For gaps and chips. It is hardened with halogen or plasma light. Cost: Around £250 a gap

Perio-temp: A device to test the temperature of pockets in the tissue around the gum. A raised temperature indicates possible problems. Cost: Can be part of an initial consultation, cost £40-£60

Decay detector: A laser system using infrared light to detect decay before it can be seen

Men who have a problem fathering children often feel that their manhood itself is under threat. By Heather Welford

Infertile doesn't mean impotent

Women who are unable to conceive often suffer from depression; men may react in a more complex way to the discovery that they have a fertility problem.

Ken Gannon, a psychologist at St Bart's and the Royal London Hospital in east London, has researched the emotional effects of infertility on men and women. He and his colleagues found high levels of psychological distress in both sexes, in line with previous research, but, more important, the type of distress differed between the sexes.

"We found that subfertile men were more likely to suffer from anxiety, whereas subfertile women were more likely to be depressed," he says. "The levels of anxiety in men are really very high. About 50 per cent of them have clear clinical symptoms."

This means, he says, that mainstream fertility counselling, which usually follows a bereavement model by acknowledging feelings of loss, may be less appropriate for men than for women.

"Men may feel less like grieving, and more threatened by their subfertility," he says. "There is a powerful feeling that their identity as men is under attack. They also know that society confuses potency, in the sense of the ability to have sex, with fertility."

This makes it hard for men even to acknowledge their distress to themselves. Dr Sammy Lee, a reproductive physiologist at London's Portman Clinic, says that men may react to this huge blow to their self-esteem by isolating themselves from other people and going into complete denial.

"Too many infertile men don't realise that their greatest asset is

their partner, who can give them so much support if they'll only let her. Sometimes I get a call from a woman who seeks counselling on behalf of her man - he'll be in the background, chipping in, and I'm counselling him through her. Or he may even be watching the football on TV at the same time."

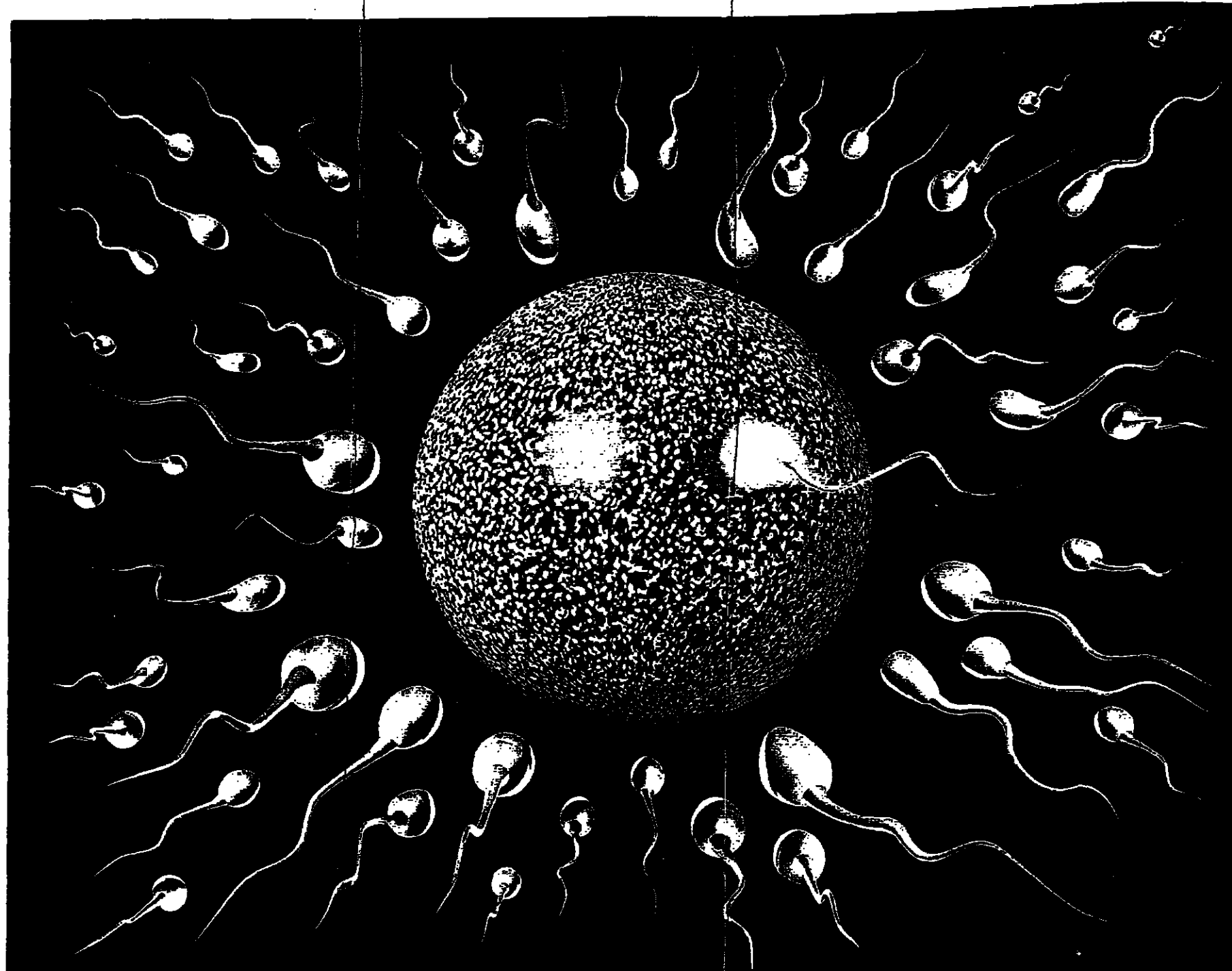
Nicky Wesson helps to run a support group for infertile couples. "It's daunting for men to come along to a group," she says. "They feel like outcasts - as if they can't talk to anyone. Even communication within the couple is difficult."

It is not surprising that things are the way they are, though, says Dr Lee. Infertility treatment tends to focus on the female, whether or not it is she who has the physical problem. "Men are absent in the clinic, except for the times when they're being treated, or producing a sample. We reduce them to the role of sperm providers."

"It's typical of the way men's feelings are sidelined throughout everything to do with pregnancy and birth," agrees Ken Gannon. "It's the same after a miscarriage. Most of the concerns are directed to the woman, whereas the man may need support, too."

Yet male fertility is a factor in at least half of the one in six couples who have problems. Male subfertility is increasing. Cases of disorders of the male reproductive tract have doubled in the last 30 to 50 years, and there has been an overall fall in sperm counts.

Various environmental reasons have been put forward as a possible cause, including chemical pollution, and, in the case of individuals, substance abuse. "Heavy cocaine use can be extremely damaging to the body's ability to produce sperm," says Dr Lee. And, more startlingly, he also speculates that there may be



A computer simulation of human sperm approaching an egg during the fertilisation process

Science Photo Library

a physiological link between the way men feel about themselves in a changing world, and their hormones. "Men are in crisis," he says. "They see women in power, and in management positions above them, and they haven't learnt to cope with it yet. If we could investigate, I think we'd find an effect on their sperm production - these ladies bite your balls."

Some of the more dramatic advances in fertility treatment help men, especially men with a low sperm count. Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), for example, injects a single sperm into the egg. There is now work being done on extracting a sample of sperm from the testes, and then treating it to zap up

its fertility. However, as Marsali Macdonald, a counsellor from Nurture (Nottingham University Research and Treatment Unit in Reproduction), says, new breakthroughs can be a curse as well as a blessing. "It can mean it's difficult to know when to get off the treatment treadmill. It's like the lottery. If you try one more time, could this be the month you strike lucky?"

The cost of fertility treatment may also add to the stress. 75 per cent of couples pay for at least some of their treatment. The patchy availability of NHS services means that it is "treatment by postcode" for some. One man, delighted to be the father of triplets after successful treatment at Nurture, told the Derby Eveing

Telegraph that he reckoned their children had cost them, all told, £50,000, including his wife's loss of earnings after having had to give up work to undergo treatment.

The Family Planning Association's new booklet, "Infertility Tests and Treatment", acknowledges the effect that infertility has on relationships, including sexual relations. Speaking for men as well as women, it says, "It can be very easy to despair, or to get so anxious about having a child, that nothing else seems to matter."

That was the case with Paul, 36, from London, a catering supplier. Paul has azoospermia - he produces no sperm. "When I got the diagnosis, after two sperm tests, I was

really very angry," he says. "Then the anger turned to profound feelings of failure. My wife Rosie and I followed up every possible lead. I had hormone injections for months. Then I had a course of Chinese herbs. But nothing made any difference. I felt that my whole world was being ruled by my infertility. Life was becoming a treadmill of injections, tests, clinic appointments. I wasn't in control."

Paul found that counselling was useful in helping him and his wife decide it was time to stop. "We wanted to take back control, and return to what we had at the start of our marriage - our life as a couple. Now, we accept we won't ever have children, but while we can't say we're happy

about it, it doesn't rule our lives any more. If people ask, 'how many children do you have?' I just say, 'none, I can't have any'. A few years ago, I might not have been able to say that without being emotional."

Issue: 01922 722883; Child, the National Infertility Support Network: 01424 732361. Nurture: 0115 9709490. For the Family Planning Association booklet, which has a useful list of contacts plus treatment information, send £1.50 to FPA Publications dept, PO Box 1078, East Oxford OX4 5JE. Alternative Fertility Treatments by Nicky Wesson (Vermilion, £8.99). Counselling in Male Infertility by Dr Sammy Lee (Blackwell Science, 1996)

Operating for vanity can damage your health

Doctors are finding there are health risks with a condition traditionally thought of as cosmetic. By Ed Walker

VARICOSE VEINS are not glamorous. The phrase "surgical support stockings" may be almost impossible to say with a completely straight face but the affliction is far from funny for sufferers, and not only because it can be so unsightly.

Varicose veins may become inflamed or infected, resulting in exquisitely tender legs that need treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. Or the stagnant blood in them may clot, with the clot perhaps spreading to the bigger veins deep inside the leg. This condition can be life-threatening.

Or veins may get damaged in a trivial injury that would normally just result in a small cut, but because there is a possibly centimetre-wide blood vessel just below the surface, it can bleed impressively and dangerously, unless someone takes the simple first-aid measures of elevating the leg and pressing firmly over the cut.

When the condition is long-standing, it is often a sign of a condition known as chronic venous insufficiency. Because the pressure in veins is relatively low compared with that in arteries, and because the legs are such a long way from the heart when we walk upright rather than on all fours like other animals, getting blood back out of the legs once it has got there is a problem. (That same problem can cause similar dilated veins a bit higher up the body - haemorrhoids.)

The return of the blood relies on a system of one-way valves in the veins, and on the veins being squashed by activity in the muscles around them. If those valves stop working (as they may do when the veins become dilated), blood pools in the legs, and the supply of fresh blood to the area is compromised. Varicose eczema and other changes in the skin may lead to ulceration,

which can take months to sort out and may even require skin grafts.

Varicose veins are often blamed for other symptoms, too, and such symptoms, along with the presence of the veins, is usually enough for surgery to be offered to the patient. Problems are said to include "heaviness or tension", aching, cramps, itching and tingling. But a team from Edinburgh University reports in the *British Medical Journal* that such symptoms are in fact rarely due to varicose veins.

The researchers studied 1,500 people, and asked them about these feelings in their legs. The commonest complaints were "aching" in women (53.8 per cent) and "cramps" in men (34 per cent). Overall, women reported more problems than men, and all symptoms became more prevalent with age. Then the volunteers were examined by doctors to look for evidence of any varicose veins, and grade their severity. Of the entire group (adjusted for age) about 35 per cent had varicose veins (in contrast to symptoms, the figure is slightly higher in men than in women). But there was precious little evidence to link the presence of the veins with the symptoms attributed to them.

In the men, the only symptom that bore any relationship to varicose veins was itching. In women, heaviness, aching and itching correlated significantly with the presence of varicose veins, although the paper's authors say that even this finding "may be of limited clinical value".

They conclude that even in the presence of varicose veins, "most lower limb symptoms probably have a non-venous cause". They also say that many people with quite severe varicose veins have no symptoms at all. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that operating on varicose veins early (by which is meant, be-

fore the first skin changes of venous insufficiency appear) has any preventive effect on the later development of leg ulcers.

More than 50,000 varicose vein operations are carried out each year on the NHS. It is not major surgery, but even so, each operation costs about £2,000 to carry out. In the ever-cost-conscious health service, we need to be sure that this is being spent wisely. Given the at best tenuous link between varicose veins and symptoms, the question arises whether operations are being performed unnecessarily.

Most patients seek surgery for uncomplicated varicose veins simply because they don't like the look of them, which is an entirely understandable reaction. But since this comes under the heading of "cosmetic" surgery, they may feel that they should also have other complaints, in order to persuade a surgeon to operate. At present it seems that many surgeons are happy to accept this as a reason to do so.

The researchers in Edinburgh advise that before considering surgery, a trial of "support hosiery" should be used, to see whether it has any effect on the patient's symptoms. Graded support stockings, properly fitted and properly worn, compress the dilated veins and force blood into the deeper veins inside the leg, which are more efficient at getting blood back up the body.

But even if symptoms do improve, it seems that at present the only way of finding out whether surgery will indeed help in the long term is to "operate and see". Although you'll almost certainly rid yourself of the squiggly blue lines running down your calves, you may also be left with your tingling, swollen, itchy legs as before. Which will leave your doctors scratching their heads as to what to do next.

When is having sex having sex, and when is it politics?

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

WHAT IS sex? I'm sorry, I'll try that again. What counts as "having sex"? This is not a Valentine's quiz, though you may think the answer is obvious or trivial. Yet this seemingly simple question has triggered the sacking of the editor of one of the world's leading medical journals, and has convulsed the international medical establishment.

The reason is that the question turns out to be not quite as simple as it seems. When US college students were given a list of activities, ranging from kissing to sexual intercourse, and asked to say which of them counted as "having sex", more than half answered that oral sex did not.

The study was fast-tracked to publication in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by its distinguished editor, George Lundberg, and appeared last month as members of the US senate began considering whether the sexual high jinks of the President, and his subsequent denials, should result in his impeachment.

Impeccable timing, you might have thought. The majority American view of whether oral sex counts as having sex is surely relevant to the events now unfolding on Capitol Hill. That, however, is not how the luminaries of the American Medical Association saw it. To them, Dr Lundberg's decision to time publication as he did was an unacceptable intrusion into the political process. Dr E Ratcliffe Anderson, executive vice-president of the AMA, said that he did not object to the contents of the paper, but to its accelerated publication. "I happen to believe that Dr Lundberg was focused on

sensationalism here, not science," he said.

The sacking has provoked an extraordinary reaction which cannot have been anticipated by the AMA. The story dominated the broadcast media for most of the day on which it was announced, and at least 53 metropolitan newspapers carried it on their front pages. Since then, acres of newsprint have been devoted to the sacking, almost all of it critical of the AMA, which has been depicted as hidebound and out

of touch. As the *New York Post* put it: "I haven't heard recently of any editor being fired for being relevant about what's going on in the world."

On this side of the Atlantic, the *British Medical Journal* had within 10 days received 67 responses on its website to its comment on the sacking, 55 of which (82 per cent) were outraged by Lundberg's dismissal. Half of these were editors themselves. One, Magne Nylen, editor of the *Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association*, suggested establishing a George Lundberg Award for editorial integrity.

There are several bizarre aspects of these events. The first is that the AMA is itself deeply embroiled in national politics. In the last decade, as the *St Louis Post-Dispatch* observed, the AMA's Political Action Committee has given more than \$14m (£8.8m) to political candidates, with about two-thirds going to Republicans. It has also criticised every health reform bill as "socialised

medicine". The charge of hypocrisy is difficult to resist.

The second is the suggestion that doctors should keep out of politics. Yet, as most doctors acknowledge, political change over the last half-century has brought greater improvements in health than medical advance - tackling poverty, improving housing and employment.

In terms of public health, timing is critical. A warning about sex or smoking may fall on deaf ears on one occasion and capture the limelight on another, often for reasons that are hard to predict in advance. It depends on linking with other events, riding on a tide of opinion, catching the zeitgeist. In this instance, the Clinton link, as well as being interesting in itself, gave a reasonable chance that the message of the study would be widely disseminated.

Nor is the finding unimportant. It carries a message that goes beyond the parlour games of the chattering classes. (Does sharing a bedroom with a member of the opposite sex count as adultery? Does sharing a bed?) For doctors and other health professionals with an interest in adolescent and sexual health, the issue of what young people understand as "having sex" matters a good deal. It demonstrates that closer and more specific questioning may be necessary to elicit details of activities that could, in the context of Aids and other sexually transmissible diseases, be dangerous.

As one correspondent to the *BMJ* - Simon Chapman, editor of *Tobacco Control* - discovered when he questioned his teenage children, fellatio may be commoner than we think.



Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton - so was it sex?



AP

MEDIA

Chris Evans boasted that Radio 1 wouldn't survive without him. He clearly hadn't reckoned on Andy Parfitt. By Rhys Williams

They're playing our tune again

Radio 1's central London office is a bit of a dump. The reception is dingy, cramped and packed with pluggers (the record industry's equivalent of door-to-door salesmen); the walls are covered in an unwelcome shade of grey.

Not very rock'n'roll - and a good thing too. First, because it means the corporation is clearly not wasting licence payers' money on trips to Habitat. Second, and more important, Radio 1 itself is no longer very rock'n'roll. These days, it is more about indie or dance or rap or pop, particularly pop. If there is a charge being levelled against the network and Andy Parfitt, its controller of 11 months, it is that Radio 1 has become a just little too pop.

Since taking over from Matthew Bannister, Parfitt has changed more than three-quarters of the schedule. John Peel has been restored to the 10pm slot. Zoë Ball has taken sole charge of the breakfast show and put on half a million listeners, while the network's rising star Chris Moyles has transferred from dawn to drive-time. Parfitt's prints are all over the place, not least in his office where the seemingly ubiquitous battle-ship grey has been replaced by sunflower yellow. In the last three months of 1998 (the first full quarter of his new line-up), Radio 1 added 200,000 listeners and registered its highest share of listening for two years.

But there is a feeling among some that ratings success has come at the expense of the cutting-edge sound that transformed tired old, sad old Fab FM into the vibrant, youthful driving force of Britpop. Specialist programmes across the evenings and weekends still play the latest in dance, indie and rap but, in the daytime, when the big numbers tune in and radio outperforms television, you are just as likely to hear the more populist strains of Steps, 911 or Billie as Pulp, Blur or Mercury Rev. An articulated lorry could scarcely make a more dramatic U-turn.

"Most people in the music industry would acknowledge that it's one of those cyclical things," counters Parfitt. "Steve Lamacq (Radio 1's indie guru) said the tide has gone out on Britpop and what replaced it for a while was pop music. Not just cheesy boy or girl bands, but also Natalie Imbruglia and Robbie

Williams, both examples of really great songwriting quality. "We're not judgemental about what makes valuable new music and nor are our listeners. They say they are as happy to sing along to "Angels" as to listen to Pete Tong stretching new European dance music. There's a less tribal view, more acceptance of different strands of music."

Until as recently as 1993, the idea of Radio 1 paying much attention to either new music or a 15-to-24-year-old target audience was frankly about as bizarre as most of the stuff you hear on John Peel's show. In fact, Peel recalls the old days at Radio 1 as a time when "you did have to keep your interest in music very much to yourself".

This all changed in late 1993 with

the 15-to-24-year-old age group served Radio 1's needs perfectly - it gives the station a point of difference to compete with the exponential growth in commercial radio and fulfil its public service obligations. "Radio 1 has to be central to young lives in the UK," Parfitt says. "That's who I care about most. I'm not trying to sell them anything, to shove a sponsor's name down their throats or deliver them to advertisers."

Parfitt is as evangelical about his audience's needs as he is about the power of radio, a medium to which he has devoted his entire working life. He started out as a BBC trainee studio manager, ran a station in the Falklands for the British Forces Broadcasting Service, then became breakfast editor on the then Radio 5. "I'm a radio devotee," he says.



Ball (right) inherited Radcliffe's unsuccessful breakfast-time slot



Evans (left) was the first to claim that Radio 1 was his

the arrival of Bannister, who, with Parfitt as his trusted assistant, administered the broadcasting equivalent of an enema. Dave Lee Travis, Simon Bates, Gary Davies and Bruno Brookes jumped or were jet-tisoned, signalling a step-change in output that in turn precipitated the defection of about half its audience.

Bannister later admitted that these changes were set in motion without necessarily having the clearest idea of where the network would go. It was Parfitt who crystallised the strategic thinking. He presented a template for the station called "Wire Free", a youth-centred, new music-driven service that would wrap its programming around a young person's every recreational and social need. Music would be the entry point, but it also had to be about cinema, clubbing, gigs, advice on drugs and coping with exams, and finding ways to package news.

The ideas hold today. Addressing

"There isn't a room in my house that hasn't got one or even two radios. Radio gets under the radar and into people's lives in a beautifully subtle way. For our audience, it's the soundtrack to their lives."

The arrival of Britpop in 1995 was like manna from heaven. It leant Radio 1 the credibility its revamp desperately needed, but in reality the relationship was symbiotic. It was Steve Lamacq's and Jo Whalley's aggressive championing of Oasis (the *Evening Session* was the first to play the 12-inch of "Columbia" months before the band had a hit), and Blur validated Britpop as a new movement and encouraged labels desperate to get on the playlist to sign up guitar bands.

There was more to Radio 1 than Britpop, of course. Danny Rampling joined Pete Tong to boost the network's presence in dance music, while Tim Westwood did the same with rap. Then there was Chris

Evans. He often describes himself as the saviour of Radio 1, when in fact the massive audience decline was arrested before his arrival. True, he added 1.2 million listeners to the breakfast show, but his chief significance was as a mascot for the network's transformation. "Chris shone a spotlight on a radio station that had radically changed," says Parfitt. "When the light was shone, it was found to be new, young and credible."

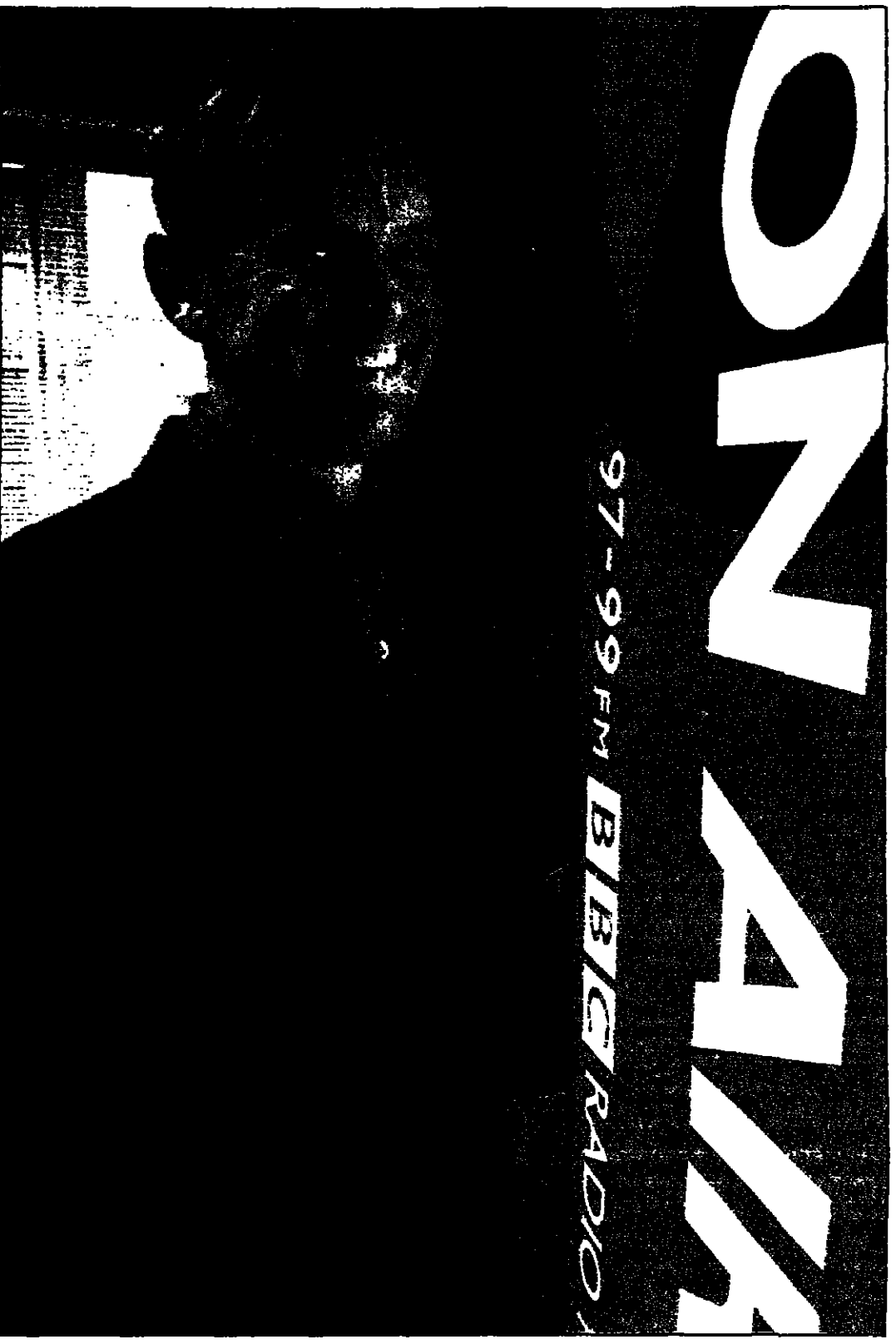
But then Evans resigned amid acrimony and the whole enterprise threatened to unravel. The presenter's other legacy was to turn the breakfast show into a tabloid sideshow and ensure a disproportionate amount of media attention was focused on its two-hour segment.

When his successors Mark Radcliffe and Mark "Lard" Riley failed to hold Evans's audiences, the setback was telescoped into a crisis for the whole network. Harsh, because Mark and Lard are hugely original DJs who were unfortunate to be placed in a slot wholly inappropriate for their style, but also because the rest of the network was unchanged.

With breakfast show losses running close to 2 million listeners in seven months, Radio 1 then gambled on the unusual pairing of Kevin Greening and radio virgin Zoë Ball. After an initial increase, audiences remained flat, so Parfitt placed Ball in sole charge last September. The half-million listeners she has added means that her show outguns Evans on Virgin Radio by two to one, which delights Parfitt. When Evans left, he promised his rival offering would "kill" Radio 1. "He declared war on us," says Parfitt. "He said he would smash us and he hasn't."

"The radio station today is so different from his days here. When you've got one individual who's the focus of all the attention, teamwork can be difficult to achieve. There are no separate programme agendas any more; we're united in what we're trying to do."

One lesson Parfitt has learnt is the need for stability - he has just signed up Ball for a further three years. He also foresees no more immediate changes to the schedule. "When the rest of our listeners' lives are changing and becoming more difficult, they want to switch on and hear familiar voices. Successful schedules take years to establish. The longer they are on, the more embedded they become in people's lives."



Not loitering by the Coke machine: under Andy Parfitt, Radio 1 is the real thing Mark Chilvers

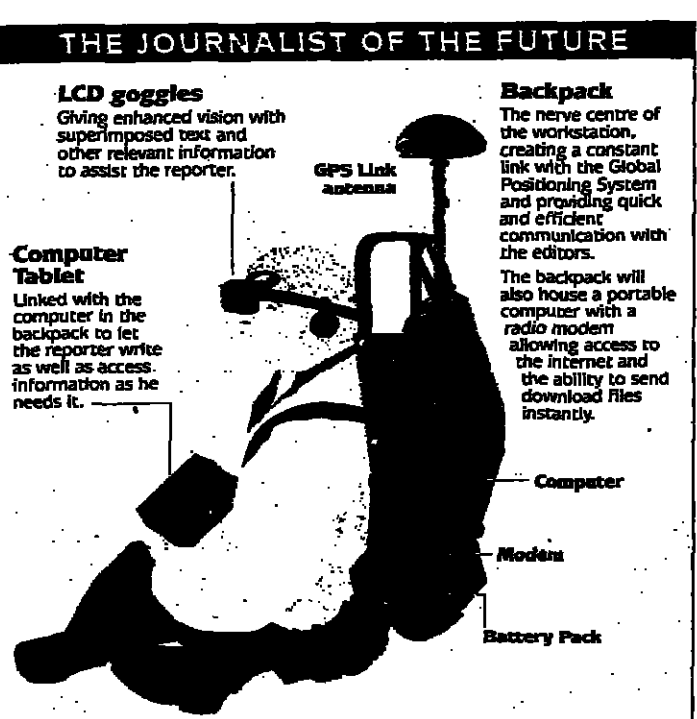
Will a high-tech backpack replace the hack's mac?

IT'S REPORTING, Jim, but perhaps not quite as we know it and could dispel forever the traditional image of a tired hack in a worn-out raincoat, carrying a scribbled-on notebook and asking for a phone.

The hack - sorry, mobile journalist - of the future would wear a backpack linking them to the Global Positioning System, allowing an editor to ascertain their location to within a few feet; a radio modem, for direct filing of stories over a wireless link to the Internet; see-through goggles with liquid-crystal displays which would superimpose text and other details on the scene as the wearer moves around; and to link and control it all, a portable computer, mostly worn as a backpack, but including a handheld computer tablet for writing and making queries of the system back home.

This vaguely frightening idea comes from Professor John Pavlik, and his team at the Center for New Media at Columbia University in New York, who are developing a prototype. It would give better access through wireless technologies to a wide spectrum of information, including the Internet, but also to remotely located experts and editors," says Professor Pavlik.

At this point I have to inject a note of caution. Journalists are already tightly linked to remotely located experts and editors. They use that wonderful invention the mobile telephone; the days of asking at pubs "houses if you can use their phone a long gone. Electronic filing is the norm. Journalists can be sent messages from their newsdesks by pager. Satellite phones mean that even Richard Branson's balloon takes a solo trip from Morocco to literary airbase (as happened a year or so ago), writers can use their IM phones to contact their offices. Furthermore, news photographers don't even have to develop their films: most of them have dig-



ital cameras, with which they can squirt a stream of 0s and 1s over the mobile link, to be reassembled as a picture at the office.

So what extra does Professor Pavlik's vision offer? He says the extra information available to reporters would lead to greater accuracy. Via the Internet? Maybe. Originally, I planned to start this piece by recalling a scene from an Eighties film starring Holly Hunter as a TV producer, Jeff Bridges, I recalled, played a dim but handsome newsreader vying for her affections with a sharp but un-telegenic rival. In one scene, as Bridges struggled to interview a foreign correspondent about an air attack, the rival phones up Hunter with hints of questions to ask; she feeds those to the newsreader's earpiece, making him suddenly look knowledgeable.

CHARLES ARTHUR

The colour of prejudice

LAST WEEK, for the second time in recent months, anti-racists protested outside the offices of the *Daily Mail* against its xenophobic coverage of asylum-seekers in this country. The piece that provoked the most recent row was a long, vitriolic attack on Somalis in Ealing, where I live, written by a "top writer", Jo Ann Goodwin. It was well-crafted to create anger and panic. Facts that matter would have got in the way of this broader social purpose, so they were simply left out. Goodwin says that 90 per cent of Somalis in Ealing are unemployed, but not that many of them are not allowed to work and others face awful discrimination. I know, because friends give them the odd gardening or babysitting job.

But this is what the *Mail* does, so why the angry surprise? I think it is because expectations of the paper have changed in the past two years. Once upon a time you used to be able either to love or hate the *Mail*, because it was a truly dependable paper. It was guaranteed not to disappoint or confuse you by taking unexpected positions. Unions were seen, unmarried mothers a national scandal. Thatcher was a goddess we did not merit and the only deserving people in Britain were white home-owners.

Blacks were to be feared and loathed, because they were mostly muggers and rapists. A handful of Asians were useful little millionaires, but most ran dirty corner shops, caged their sweet, anglicised little girls, and ripped off the welfare state. Most of all, immigrants were vermin overrunning the country, claiming to be refugees, destroying our green and pleasant land.

There were a few oddities that didn't quite make sense in these terms. The *Mail*, unlike some more liberal papers, not only has been open to black and Asian journalists for years now, but was the first to give a black journalist, Baz Bamigboye, a star job as their show-

Despite its coverage of the Lawrence case, the *Daily Mail* has reverted to type on race
By Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

biz man. But this made no difference to the set values and coverage. Then came its incredible response to the Stephen Lawrence killing and the five white boys who stood accused, but walked free without a trial. The *Mail* named and shamed them, and black and Asian Britons were left reeling with gratitude, and even guilt. Some of us started buying the paper. Radicals such as the fiery Mark Wadsworth, and Stuart Weir, the widely respected writer on democracy, wrote to the paper with such praise that the eyes hurt to read their words. The explanation for this was that Paul Dacre, the *Mail's* editor-in-chief, knew Neville Lawrence because the latter had done a decorating job for him, and out of this

personal contact was born an astonishing, unlikely campaign.

But one flower does not mean springtime and it is time to ask whether this one good deed has carried too much importance. Maybe we anti-racists have been naïve to think that this was anything more than an aberration, the deeper reasons for which can only be speculated on. It was sensationalist; it sold papers and added moral worthiness to a vast list of other qualities that give the *Mail* its unassailable reputation. It may even have given the paper licence to hound its traditional victims even more viciously. Without doubt, asylum seekers have long been among the top targets of the paper, and they can expect even less mercy today. Yesterday it was no surprise to see



UNSCRUPULOUS FIRMS CASH IN ON KOSOVO'S DESPERATION

a page lead exposing illegal immigrants from the war in Kosovo "queuing up for jobs in the black economy".

Journalist Paul Coleman carried out a survey of the national newspapers on the press coverage of asylum-seekers for the think-tank the Runnymede Trust. The *Mail* had the largest number of articles on the subject, three times as many as in *The Sun* and double those in other right-wing papers. Of course, none of the reports included information on violations of human rights in the countries where asylum-seekers came from, or explained that the Geneva Convention excludes people who are fleeing natural disasters, such as earthquakes. None of those quoted were asylum-seekers. Recent pages were devoted to the crimes committed by asylum seekers and refugees in this country. More cases might have emerged if they had done a spread, say, on nurses who have broken the law.

When I was researching my book, *True Colours*, on attitudes to multiculturalism, ex-*Mail* journalists told me that the Immigration Services Union had a direct link with the paper and sought to exaggerate the "problem" of illegal immigration. Thus the anti-refugee obsession carries on.

I came here in 1972, a dispossessed person from Uganda. The *Mail* told us at the time there was no space for us here. But 30,000 jobs have been created by Ugandan Asians in the Midlands since, and on the 25th anniversary of our arrival the successes in the community were even praised by the paper. Perhaps we should send an appealing Somali or Kosovan refugee to work for Dacre, if that is what it takes to change direction for the paper. But wouldn't it be better if this extraordinary editor decided to use his influence to create just a little more understanding of why refugees leave their countries, and what most of them bring to our nation?

We all make mistakes. But if you're skilful they need not cost you your job. By Paul McCann

Crisis? What crisis?

Two men, two gaffes, two Saturday morning newspaper exclusives. But two stories with very different endings. In one story, the England football manager expresses a view on reincarnation that has nothing to do with football. He is hounded from his job. Another man, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is quoted suggesting that a relationship between a teacher and a pupil can be "educative" at a time when the Government is specifically legislating to outlaw such relationships. He appears to be keeping his job.

The lesson that the public relations industry would have us learn from the Glenn Hoddle and Chris Woodhead stories is the power of crisis management. Invest in good PR advice, they claim, and we'll show you how to survive your gaffe.

"Every situation is savable," says the celebrity publicist Max Clifford. "Just look at Clinton. My strategy would have been to get Hoddle to admit that he wasn't good at English - that's why he got into football. After all, humility goes a long way in this country."

"He could have come out and denied believing that the disabled deserve their lot, saying that he was sorry for any distress caused. At the same time, I would have had the disabled organisations he had worked with for years come forward and support him. You could have got to the point where Blair wouldn't have dared make the remarks that he did on the Richard and Judy show."

The Prime Minister said on ITV's *This Morning* that if Hoddle's remarks had been correctly reported "it would be very hard for him to stay". It has been identified as the point at which the England manager's position became untenable. Dave Hill, the long-time Labour spin doctor and veteran of many emergency rebuttals, agrees that Hoddle could have extricated himself. "He had to know on Friday night it was going to be a huge story. Even on Saturday morning, it would have been possible for him to get on the



Woodhead was quick to present his version of events, while Hoddle left a vacuum. PA/Reuters

Today programme and start getting his message out. He should then have done the independent radio news programmes and had the lunch-time news bulletins reporting what he really said, not what *The Times* was reporting that he said."

Hill, who now works for the PR company Good Relations, believes Hoddle should also have chosen better the vehicles for his rebuttal. "He should have done hard news programmes, not a soft interview on *Grandstand*. When a sport or an education story leads the news it is no longer just a specialist story."

"He had to say he was misunderstood. This is what Chris Woodhead did. He covered the Saturday news programmes with his version of a relationship with an ex-student and a reinterpretation of what he had said at a teacher's conference - so that's what the papers were running on Sunday when he was apologising on TV. Hoddle was dead in the water

by Monday, which is why Blair could say what he did on *This Morning*. "Hoddle had limited options," says Trevor Morris, managing director of the Quentin Bell Organisation, a PR firm. "He had to clarify what he said and give journalists something to write. His lack of clarity

Invest in good PR, they claim, and we'll show you how to survive your gaffe

left a vacuum which journalists were able to fill themselves." The other option for Hoddle was to deny his quote completely. This is an option suggested by another former Labour spin doctor now plying his trade outside politics. Not surprisingly, he doesn't wish to be named: "If desperate, he could have stuck to the fact that he didn't say it. In the case of Roger Liddle and the *Observer's* cash for access story, Downing Street made it an issue about journalistic integrity, demanding a tape and getting the focus shifted to whether he said something, not what he said."

Max Clifford believes Hoddle should never have been allowed into the position where he could talk about reincarnation. "The biggest part of damage limitation is anticipation. You know what someone's opinions are on something and so you make sure that there is no way they ever talk about that subject. Despite cases like Terry Venables and Graham Taylor, the FA still doesn't seem to understand the importance of the manager's media relations." Other PR experts agree that Hoddle had a much bigger firestorm to deal with than Woodhead. An Eng-

THE WORD ON THE STREET

FORMER TREASURY spin supremo, Charlie Whelan, is getting into his stride as a football pundit for *The Observer*. On Hoddle: "Football fans don't give a monkey's if a manager or a player is religious, but we all get a little worried about born-again Christians". And on FIFA's proposals to make the World Cup every two years instead of the present every four: "It would mean the World Cup coming around twice as often."

Perceptive stuff. And he certainly knows how to drop a hint. The Football Association's handling of the Hoddle affair, shows that "there is no bigger media job that needs doing than spin doctor to the new England manager."



A BIG thank you to all our friends at Virgin Radio for their kind gift of an expensive Polartec fleece. And very smart it is too - blue with red trim and a discreet Virgin Radio logo. The splendid garment arrived on Thursday morning, just in time for us to pull it on and head down to the latest Rajar quarterly briefing, at which, we learnt, Virgin misplaced another 130,000 listeners. The arrival of the fleece and the Rajar results were "not connected" claimed a Virgin Radio press officer. Of course not.

ON THE face of it, Scotland's already well-populated newspaper market needs a new title in the same way that Rangers require the services of a foreign striker. Nevertheless, a warm reception overall for the *Sunday Herald*. "Very bright, very colourful," says Magnus Linklater, former editor of *The Scotsman*. Ex-pats in London will have to take his word for it. The paper suspects dark forces behind the decision not to let

the paper on to the plane which brings rival titles *Scotland on Sunday* and *Sunday Post* to the capital. "Nonsense," says a circulation type at DC Thomson, which controls the flight. "There simply isn't room for it." In the hold or on the newsstand?

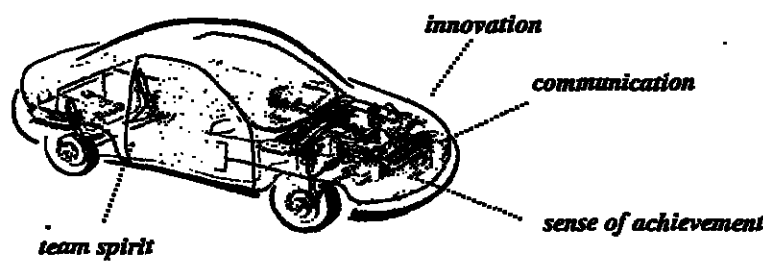
THE RON Davies affair has branded Clapham Common as a place of nefarious nocturnal goings-on. Worse still, the other habits of the ex-Welsh Secretary's favoured pulling place have been disturbed in their doing by a film crew from C4 making a documentary for *Cutting Edge*. The programme is described as "an impressionistic portrait of the bleakly beautiful South London common... a rare insight into the lives of cruisers, courting couples and drifters." The production jaunt around the common. Which is very similar to what Mr Davies said.

AT A recent *Mirror* editorial conference discussions centred on the newest batch of Della Smith recipes. The first recipe due to be launched on a hungry public was for mashed potatoes. "Well that's no good," stated the deputy editor, weight-watching Tina Weaver, "everyone knows that no one eats potatoes any more."

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NEW FILMS

A BUG'S LIFE (U)
Director: John Lasseter
Starring: David Foley, Kevin Spacey
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)
Director: Gillies Mackinnon
Starring: Kate Winslet, Said Taghmaoui
Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullin) unwillingly in tow. Meantime, gormless backpackers, Sufi teachers, thieving natives and Said Taghmaoui's child-of-the-soil love-interest weave hither and thither across the narrative. Regeneration director Mackinnon makes a fair fist of translating Esther Freud's novel to the screen; stirring in lots of ethnic chic and a canny period soundtrack. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch, and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Kilburn Tricycle Cinema, UCI Surrey Quays. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)
Director: Kevin Sullivan
Starring: Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg
Stella got her groove back like this. She took off to Jamaica with her feisty boddie (Whoopi Goldberg), sashayed around the beach in a clinging bikini, and got herself a little love action in the form of a man (Laye Diggs) young enough to be her son. So it goes: *Stella* Valentine with an

Afro-American spin. Terry MacMillan's bestseller has been conjured into a kind of ongoing travel-agent commercial - a coldly marketed "chick-flick" enjoying a run at cinemas before cropping up as your in-flight entertainment. Title star Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, UCI Surrey Quays

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)
Director: Richard LaGravenese
Starring: Holly Hunter, Danny DeVito
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, UCI Surrey Quays

PECKER (18)
Director: John Waters
Starring: Edward Furlong, Christina Ricci, Lili Taylor
Trash auteur Waters swerves into sunnier streets with *Pecker*, his fluffy satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer (Edward Furlong) adapted as a fly-on-the-wall artist by the New York elite. More *High Society* than *Pink Flamingos*, *Pecker* goes big on blue-collar kitsch without ever making any real, stringent point, and squanders Christina Ricci (as Furlong's hard-nosed girlfriend) into the bargain. The result is entirely genial, but you miss the old risk, edge and bad-taste artistry. Age, it seems, has mellowed John Waters. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted wails. West End: Plaza, Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Bezzelheath Cinesworld, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village North Finchley, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Richmond Odeon Studio, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon

BULWORTH (18)
Disillusioned at the end of an election campaign, senator Jay Bulworth (Warren Beatty) turns suicidal loose cannon; hanging out in the hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap stylings. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. Local: Catford ABC, Croydon Clocktower, Croydon Safair, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village Finchley Road, Peckham Premier, Wimbledon Odeon. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

ELIZABETH (15)
Shekhar Kapur's story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)
Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, but the one stand-out is Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S. Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: Gate Notting Hill Repertory: Prince Charles, The Lux Cinema

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains, Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pre sisters, Hilary (sly, married faustic) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Hill, Local: Greenwich Cinema, Richmond Odeon Studio

LITTLE VOICE (15)
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

MEET JOE BLACK (12)
Martin Brest's underdeveloped retelling of *Death Takes a Holiday* stars Brad Pitt as the equine Grim Reaper, who get charmed around the everyday delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying billionaire. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Local: Bezzelheath Cinesworld, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Streatham ABC

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. Local: Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, Richmond Odeon Studio, UCI Surrey Quays

x (PI) (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho. Local: Richmond Odeon Studio

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)
Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of mumbo-jumbo, *Practical Magic* sees Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches and hexing any unlucky man who swings into their orbit. With Dianne Wiest and Aidan Quinn. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

RUSH HOUR (15)
Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wide-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a bit-and-miss-offer. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon. Repertory: National Film Theatre

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

STEPMOM (12)
This sugar-glazed, oven-ready affair casts an out-of-sorts Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that hubby Ed Harris has hooked up with. The first mom gets poorly and laughter turns to tears (or at least weary resignation). West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (18)
James Toback's taught drama probes aggressively at the psychological make-up of its three central characters. Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-rat prima donna, and *Two Girls and a Guy* gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the resulting yarn into a pungent acting showcase. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Warner Village Finchley Road

VERY BAD THINGS (18)
A bunch of stag-weekenders accidentally kill a Las Vegas whore, intentionally murder the security guard who rumbles the crime, and then start coming apart at the seams on their arrival home. Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering gross-out comedy in a *Loaded*-magazine style. With Cameron Diaz and Christian Slater. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

Living Out Loud (15)
Holly Hunter plays a Manhattan woman who, left by her husband, befriends the elevator operator in her building. Writer Richard LaGravenese handles everything with affectionate restraint.

A Bug's Life (U)
Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Antz*, this animated feature spins around an enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)
Christina Ricci (right) plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, who causes havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre)
Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicite's surreal and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 20 Feb

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre)
Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Forest (Lyttelton, National Theatre)
Frances de la Tour is deliciously amusing as the cradle-snatching widow in Ostrovsky's comedy about tyrants and thespians. In rep

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)
An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)
It's third time lucky for this much-revived musical (right). In Connal Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, more magnificent show. To 13 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. Images of triumphant bourgeois luxury. To 25 Apr

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)
The modern object-world made luminous. This survey of nearly 50 years' work offers his full range - notably, those bold laconic outlines, blocked in with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)
Photographs 1994-98: wide-vision, high-finish, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see. To 7 Mar

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)
"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya (right) and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar



TOM L'UBROCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902004) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Fitzrovia
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
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My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-902 0712) @ Leicester Square
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-902 0713) @ Marble Arch
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ODEON TROCADERO (0870-902 0714) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 12.5pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

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CLASSICAL
EVENTS
OPERA
MUSIC
DANCE

RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo,
12.00 Kevin Greening, 2.00 Mark
Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles,
5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave
Pearce, 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the
Evening Session, 10.00 Digital
Update, 10.30 John Peel, 12.00
The Breezeback, 2.00 Olive War-
ren, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester, 7.30 Wake Up
to Wogan, 9.30 Richard Atkinson,
12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed
Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker,
7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest
Hits, 8.00 Nigel Ogden, 9.00 A
Brief History, See Pick of the Day,
10.00 Susan Jeffreys Says Make
it a Double, 10.30 Nicky Home,
12.00 Katrina Leskanich, 3.00 -
4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air,
9.00 Masterworks,
10.30 Artist of the Week,
11.00 Sound Stories,
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Toscanini,
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-
cert,
2.00 The BBC Orchestras,
4.00 Voices,
4.45 Music Machine,
5.00 In Tune,
7.45 Performance on 3. Live from
the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London:
ASMT/Orna Brown (violin), Bartok:
Divertimento, Britten: Variations
on a Theme of Frank Bridge,
8.40 Book of the Month. An ex-
tended review of one of the
month's most interesting new pub-
lications. John Kinsella considers
'The Collected Poems of Peter
Porter'. One of the country's most
distinguished literary figures,
Porter celebrates his seventieth
birthday next week. He moved to
Britain from Australia in 1951, and
his output has influenced writers
on both sides of the world. 'The
Collected Poems' includes his
Whitbread Award-winning collec-
tion 'The Automatic Oracle', as
well as an entirely new collection,
'Both Ends against the Middle'.
9.00 Concert, part 2. Tippett: Lit-
tle Music, Strauss: Metamorpho-
sen.

TUESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

IN THE AFTERNOON titled A Brief History (9pm R2), Honor Blackman (right) embrothers some skippy research about knickers down the ages with humorous social commentary. Contributors and self-appointed experts include Dame Barbara Cartland and Jacqueline Gold (head of Ann Summers). Underwear is just one of the items that acts like honey to a



DOMINIC CAVENTISH

9.55 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency, 2: 'The Man with a Gun'. A look at half a century of war photography by members of the prestigious Magnum agency. (R)
10.30 Polini Plays Chopin. Barcarolle in F sharp minor, Op 60; Polonaise in F sharp minor, Op 44. Maurizio Pollini (piano).
10.45 Night Waves. 'Even errors can produce interesting side effects,' claims Umberto Eco in a new book exploring the lunatic theories behind some of history's major movements. Richard Coles and guests discuss Eco's 'Serendipities'. Plus a review of 'La vita e bella', winner of last year's Grand Jury Prize at Cannes. Roberto Benigni's film is a romantic story set against the Fascism of 30s Italy.
12.00 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Liszt. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; No Triumph, No Tragedy.
9.30 The New Recruit.
9.45 Serial: The Tulip.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Nature.
11.30 Coming Alive.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.

1.30 My Mistress Music.
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: On the Rob. See Pick of the Day.
3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0870 010 0444.
3.30 Going, Going, Gona.
3.45 This Scattered Isle.
4.00 NEWS; The Learning Curve.
4.30 Shop Talk.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents - the Butter Factor.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.25 Front Row. John Wilson with the arts programme, including news and comment on this year's Oscar nominations, announced to-day.
7.30 Speaking for Themselves. Dramatised excerpts from the letters of Britain's great wartime leader and his wife Clementine, taken from the newly published collection edited by their daughter, Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings as Winston, Sylvester the Toulou as Clementine, and Helen Bourne as the narrator (7/10).
8.00 NEWS; File on 4. After the Government's decision not to set up a Royal Commission on animal testing, Julian O'Halloran investigates the vivisection business. How many of the two-and-a-half million experiments carried out in Britain each year really advance the cause of science? See Pick of the Day.
8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents coverage of the night's under-21 international between England and France.
10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including 10.30 a full sports round-up. 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cricht. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 10.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(125.167-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forster. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Hamish. 7.30 Pete. 8.00 Scott. 10.00 James Merrett. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 On Screen. 1.45 Record News. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Women Who Dared to Speak. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 Sports Roundup. 3.45 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).
TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrar. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 10.00 Anna Haebum. 3.00 Peter Dealey. 5.00 The SportZone. 7.00 Eubank's People. 8.00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

SATELLITE TV, RADIO/17

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

IN THE perfectly justified brouhaha over the wonderful tournament at Wijk aan Zee, sight seems to have been lost - or rather I certainly lost sight of - the fact that here were many other graded sections, including a far from weak Grandmaster B tournament.

This 11-round event, which averaged 2,520 (category 11), started three days after the main tournament and, with one rest day fewer, was timed to finish simultaneously on 31 January.

After a run of five straight wins in the middle - which would be pretty special were it not so overshadowed by Kasparov's seven - the pre-tournament favourite, the Armenian Smbat Lputian, ran out the clear winner on 8.5/11. He was followed by Laila Duda unless otherwise labelled. Leita (Brazil) 7.5, Ionov (Russia) and Van der Wiel 7, Glek (Russia) and Nijboer 6.5, De Vreugt 5, Brodsky (Ukraine) 4.5, Christian Bauer (France) - the victor of the Andorra zonal but out of sorts here - and Janssen 4, Bosch 3 and Van den Doel just 2.5.

Lputian, who has a deep voice and somewhat saturnine appearance but belies these with a very pleasant personality away from the board, is a rather defensive-minded positional player, strong in defence and with excellent technique. Most of his games in Wijk were fairly routine. But certainly not this against a potentially very dangerous attacking player.

In the opening, 12 Kd2 was extraordinary. I think that the idea was to prepare 12... Bxb4 13 Nxb5 Rxb5 14 g3 Rb8 15 gxb4 Rxb4 16 Rxb4 Qxb4 17 Qh1 when if Qxb2 + 18 Be2 White has dangerous play.

19 Rb1 threatened 20 Nxb5 - not 19 Nxb5 axb5 20 Qxb5 Rb8.

20... Qxb5 must be better, 30 Qb2+ when Qe5 31 Qxe5+ dxe5 32 Be1! Bxc4 33 Re1 Rb8+ 34 Ke1 Bb3 35 Bb7! is far from clear but the messy 30... f6 looks right and if 31 Qb7+ Bf7 Black is probably first, eg 32 b6 d5 33 Re1 Rb8!

White: Smbat Lputian
Black: Friso Nijboer
Wijk aan Zee B 1999 (Round 8)
Trompowsky

1 d4 Nf6	22 Rh1 Qd5
2 Bg5 c6	23 Qxb6 Bxb4
3 e3 h6	24 Qg7 Kg7
4 Bb4 d6	25 a4 Bxb3
5 c4 g5	26 f5g5 c5
6 Bg3 Ne4	27 a5 Qg5
7 Ne2 f5	28 Qb6 Qe5
8 h4 Nxb3	29 c4 d5
9 Nxb3 g4	30 Qxc5 Rb8
10 Ne3 Be7	31 Qd4 f8
11 Bb3 Ne6	32 Qxe5 fxe5
12 Kd2 Bb7	33 c5 c4
13 Rh2 a6	34 Be2 d4
14 a3 Na7	35 cxd4 Rxd4+
15 d5 b5	36 Kc3 Rb4
16 dxe6 Bxb6	37 b6 Kf6
17 cxb5 Nxb5	38 Rxb5 Bc5
18 Qa4 Kf8	39 Kf4 e3+
19 Rb1Nxb3	40 Kxb3 Ke5
20 bxc3 Rb8	41 Bb1 1-0
21 Rxb8 Qxb8	

CREATIVITY

LOKI

FURTHER RESIGNATIONS rock Blair Government. Perspicacious readers reveal all in a candid Exchange of Letters.

"Politician and Baby in Kiss-and-Vell Drama!" screams Ed Lyons. "Snogging the Sprogit!" shouts TAB Lloyd. "Moscow Gold!" thunders Daley Mayall, who, paradoxically, has a Letter from Xeno. "Vee hev - ze prufel!" says a guttural Presbyterian O Sawyer. "US wrecks First Daughter's Stalkers" writes Alice Strickland, reporting how five senior ministers, who admit to following Chelsea, have all now gone.

James A Kelly has the Lord Chancellor Woollashed, caught wearing an apron, claiming "Only doing the washing-up"; Jack Straw banished when the Food Agency tests the home-made hash brownies he feeds to colleagues; and John Prescott getting the hump on finding he is not going to be king. Dobson and Cook go, as The Sun reveals Frank was supplying non-priority Robin with Viagra.

Duncan Bull has PM and Chancellor resign for coming to a private housing arrangement at Nos 10 and 11, and Andrew Duncan has the Foreign Minister unmasked as a Hobbit. MPs looking bored during Parliamentary debates should resign for failing to declare an interest, says Susan Times. All 650 of them should go now, says JR Gore - for voting themselves an increase without declaring an interest. Gordon Brown should definitely go, says S Lees - he gets

Eddie George to declare an interest he should be declaring himself. Betty Boothroyd has to go for accepting Bill Cash for questions; all fluent orators for treating members to a speakeasy; and Jack Straw, caught eating a cob at the dispatch box, for a roll in the hay (Bruce Birchall). For not being in when Tony Blair calls round (a scurrilous Serge S Chung). For being found out (U Meehan).

For owning old cars (Maguy Higgs). For nude eels (Mary Whitehouse). For actually answering questions (Nicholas E Gough). For making long speeches interesting (Phil E Bairstoun). For purchasing grey imports from an anonymous TONY MEP (Colin Archer). For being caught cheating at games by their grandchildren, especially Racing Demon and Diplomacy (Fiona & John Earle) - if they can't bluff children, what chance have they with the electorate?

James A Kelly, and Fiona & John, win copies of Chambers Dictionary of Quotations, as does Paul Turner for the next challenge. Devise suitable punishments for the perpetrators of unwanted, unloved modern inventions.

Ideas to Creativity. Features. The Independent. 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL or e-mail: Loki.Valhalla@btinternet.com by 18 February. Three prizes of Chambers Dictionary of Quotations, one for suggesting a challenge, on 25 February. On 16 February, uses for umbrellas whisked away by the wind

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

QUITE RIGHTLY acclaimed, The Civil War (10pm History Channel) is a seminal and meticulous documentary. Years in production, it brings in more than 16,000 still photographs, paintings, archival lithographs and newspaper cuttings to tell the story of the epoch-making American Civil War. Narration is shared between Derek Jacobi, Morgan Freeman (right) and Jeremy Irons. Tonight's episode investigates "The Cause".



JAMES RAMPTON

10.00 War and Civilization (935440).
11.00 Code Red (935440). 12.00 Lives of Fire: Consumed by Fire (935440).
12.00 History's Turning Points (935440). 1.30 Wheel Nuts (935440). 2.00 Close.
SKY ONE
7.00 Count Duckula (935440). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (935440). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (935440). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (935440). 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (935440). 11.00 Gullit! (935440). 12.00 Jerry Jones (7016). 1.00 Mad about You (935440). 1.30 Jeopardy (935440). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (72373). 3.00 Jerry Jones (72374). 4.00 Gullit! (935440). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (935440). 6.00 Gullit! (935440). 6.30 Dream Team (7354). 7.00 The Simpsons (935440). 7.30 The Simpsons (935440). 8.00 Rescue Medics (935440). 8.30 Coppers (935440). 9.00 World's Wildest Police Videos (935440). 9.30 Grease Uncovered (935440). 1.00 Dream Team (935440). 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager (7915). 12.30 The Commish (7836). 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (785478).
SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 7.30 V-Max (935440). 8.00 Sky Sports (935440). 8.30 Racing News (935440). 9.00 World Wrestling (935440). 9.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 10.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 11.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 12.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 1.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 2.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 3.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 4.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 5.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 6.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 8.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 9.30 Sky Sports Centre (935440). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre 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